

Earth



First!

Litha 1996

June 20

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

Vol. XVI, No. VI

\$3.50

"Wisconsin Forever, Exxon Never!"

BY BEN MANSKI

In the wake of a series of stunning victories over the Exxon Corporation, the anti-mining movement in Wisconsin is regrouping. Many had hoped—but few thought—that by mid-May of 1996 we'd have Exxon and its Crandon mining project on the defensive, but we do. We've won on the legislative front; we've carried the resistance to the streets of our communities; we've gained some ground in the mine permitting process; and Wisconsin opinion is clearly set against the mine. The way things are going, Exxon won't get its 44-million ton, 200-acre toxic metallic sulfide mine in the Wolf River headwaters.

But the Exxon Corporation is big, an entity with more resources than most national government, resources which dwarf those of Wisconsin's state government; it hasn't been easy thus far, and it won't be getting any easier. What is called for now is broad solidarity, and we Wisconsinites need help in our struggle to defend our waters.

What has come to be known in Wisconsin as "the mine" is a massive, deep-shaft metallic sulfide ore mine, proposed to be sited in the headwaters of the Wolf River in Forest County. The Wolf River headwaters are home to osprey, eagle, hawk, black bear, timber wolf, the endangered goblin fern, and three species of trout. Two miles downstream, along Swamp Creek, is the Mole Lake Reservation, the heart of the Sokaogon Chippewa community. Downriver along the Wolf are the Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Potawatomi and Oneida nations, as well as Lake Winnebago and the Fox River Valley. Since time



photo by John Peck

Marchers converged on Madison, Wisconsin on April 26 for an Earth Day of Action.

immemorial, the Wolf River has been a source of food, water and trade the peoples of northeast Wisconsin have depended upon and deeply respected.

Officials from the Crandon Mining Company (CMC), a subsidiary of the Exxon and Rio Algom corporations, claim they are after the copper and zinc sulfide ore that runs throughout the deep granite rock of Wisconsin's North Woods. They propose a mine 550 acres in area, piercing into a sulfide ore body that holds significant deposits of mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium, zinc, copper

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Outfitter Attacks Bear Watch



photo by Shell Sweeney

Outfitter Don Rose loses his cool with a Bear Watch activist.

BY KRIS MAENZ

Campbell River, Vancouver Island, Sunday, May 26: Here we sit, five Bear Watch activists locked in our four-wheel drive rental car in the parking lot of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police station. Men wearing plaid shirts and baseball caps surround us, hurling insults and eggs in an attempt to break our spirit. Every now and then one of them saunters by laughing, almost singing, "The police are on our side. You should just go home and leave us alone." We return their threats with witty jests of our own.

They are easy to tease. Commercial bear hunting, particularly in the spring, is not much of a challenge. Hunting rights in the six outfitting zones of Vancouver Island are bought by professional outfitters who print up fancy brochures containing abundant posed photos of camo-clad hunters clutching bloody carcasses. These brochures are sent around the world to lure game hunters to the province where they'll spend \$3,000-5,000 (US) for a guaranteed black bear kill. The outfitter provides lodging, food for five days and a backwoods guide to take the customers hunting.

The Struggle to Save Mother Africa

BY NOMANZI

Last November thousands of South Africans took to the streets in mass action. It was not an action against the apartheid regime defeated in the democratic elections of 1994. This time, thousands of people from all over the country gathered to protest Shell Oil's exploitation of our Mother Africa and the Ogoni people of Nigeria. Young people in the townships realized that even though they had won the struggle against apartheid after 80 years of suffering, their freedom was still threatened. Ruthless multinational companies like Shell, plundering the environment, have cast a grim shadow over many countries in Africa.

Sadly, it took the tragic death of Ken Saro-Wiwa to bring this home. Saro-Wiwa died at the hands of fellow Africans, the jackbooted thugs hired by Shell. This tragedy happens frequently in many other African countries.

Young black people spontaneously started coming together again in the townships, just the way we did during the struggle against apartheid. We realised that our freedom was not won while innocent people were dying at the hands of the multinationals, while our Earth was suffering the pain of wanton destruction. But we had no movement, no idea how to take on this struggle. Then slowly the sun broke the gloom of the dark shadows as we learned about Earth First! and the slogan "No Compro-

mise!" We instinctively knew this was our struggle being echoed in the woods of North America, echoed in the trees of England. So Young Lions EF! started in South Africa! And again we can raise the clenched fist, our salute during the apartheid struggle, the symbol of our defiance. We know it's not a new struggle or a different one. It's the same struggle against oppression and evil; another battle to be fought and won.

We're called Young Lions because this is what the press called the young fighters during the struggle against apartheid, the young people who were not afraid to confront a tank, armed only with a stone in hand. The lion is also the symbol of Africa's power and pride. Our message to the people of Africa is that they are not free until we've driven the multinationals and their fascist puppets out!

In March, Young Lions EF! occupied a quarry for three days in solidarity with road protestors in Europe. There also were direct actions against a canned hunt and several proud bucks were liberated and safely released into a wild area. We protested against Shell on the commemoration of Ken Saro-Wiwa's death. In May, we began an EF! roadshow with musicians and our EF! banner. The roadshow will cover 30,000 km, visiting five other African countries.

A long forgotten wind is blowing through Africa, bringing the message of freedom and no compromise!

Spring hunts mostly consist of long drives up bumpy logging roads searching for bears who are still groggy from hibernation. As the bears stagger around clearcuts slowly searching for their first meals of the spring, hunters rudely shoot them from the hoods of their trucks. There is no skill or exercise involved; the bears are often so lethargic that gunshots do not motivate them to run.

Meanwhile, the men outside the car continue harassing us, hitting our

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

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QUESTIONING TECHNOCENTRISM

A year ago I lost my best friend to Bill Gates and the Microsoft machine. "You are so talented," I told him, "why go to work for a corporate greed-monger like Gates?"

But my plea fell on ears deafened by a \$40,000 starting salary, stock options and fringe benefits. Our friendship and the distance his move to Seattle put between us didn't factor into his decision.

To convince my friend to free himself from the rat race, I needed to present him an alternative world view free of consumer compulsion. But I'm still caught between knowledge and action, lost in a world of frustration.

I'm one of those people who doesn't share the mainstream's rosy outlook on the Earth's durability: I don't believe it can withstand endless consumption and the taming of all things wild. Humans dissect and distill the Earth into its component parts in their endless pursuit of knowledge. Then they recombine the parts in profitable ways to satisfy their boundless greed. Smoothing the rough edges of nature with technology does not make this world a better place. The frontier mentality of a technological manifest destiny is the Earth's greatest enemy.

Creature comforts increase and the environment grows more unstable. People hide in their climate-controlled domiciles and avoid the damaged, dangerous outdoors. Virtual reality promises unspeakable delights: Experience the great outdoors without leaving the comfort of your own home! As long as basic needs are met, a person could gleefully surf the web to a bachelor's degree and then telecommute on to retirement and beyond. What will motivate such a person to preserve what little is left of the "great outdoors" if they never go there?

It's time to reconsider the free-market feeding frenzy and the ever-more-elaborate products created to satiate its hunger. I don't want a tomato that was genetically altered with mouse liver DNA and picked five months ago in a field 1,000 miles from my home. However, it's hard to resist such "refinements" when they are presented gushingly to you every waking moment.

The drive to distill life's essence has led to numerous scientific discoveries and technological breakthroughs. But the business of transmuting this knowledge into gold will end life on Earth as we know it.

Technology is never value-free; every purchase, from the food one eats to the newest system software upgrade, strains the web of the world. Yet, industrialized society is increasingly resource-intensive and computer-dependent. A technocentric society cannot comprehend the intrinsic value of the unknown. A computer either has certain information or doesn't—it is not aware of mystery. No

computer can know the beauty of a raging river or a howling coyote. Systems developed to weigh the costs and benefits of clearcutting and nuclear energy are inherently flawed; they do not factor in non-human perspectives.

Computers and the ever-expanding frontiers of knowledge they offer are just a cutting-edge fix, sealing the user ever-deeper in addiction. No salve or tincture can help a technophile kick the habit.

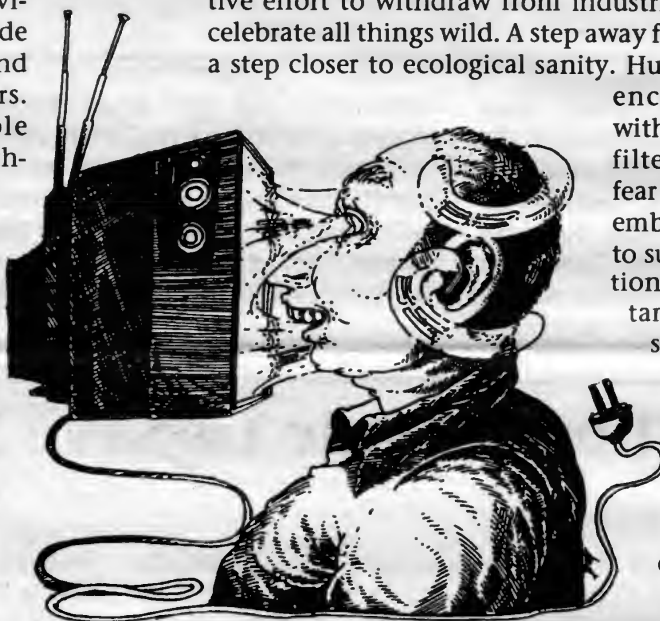
If Earth First!ers use computers at all, they should use them sparingly to monkeywrench the system and promote less technological dependence. The strength to break free from technology's grip is hard to muster. Earth First! can do more than raise consciousness through direct action—it must be a community of people committed to staying technologically clean.

The Earth's survival depends on revolutionary thought and action by people of moral and ecological conscience. It may be too late for us humans, but is that any reason to surf the web all the way to oblivion and ecological collapse?

The revolution against technology must be a collaborative effort to withdraw from industrial technology and celebrate all things wild. A step away from the machine is a step closer to ecological sanity. Humans must experience

life first-hand without an electronic filter. People cannot fear the wild: They must embrace and embody it to survive the information age. Attempts to tame the Earth and stave off death are driven by fear and greed. But death is the inevitable end to the means of living, so get on with it—live and die wild.

—ROSS FREEMAN



This issue is dedicated to Scott Hawkins. Check out his tales of extraordinary madness at <http://homepage.interramp.com/us022774/>

—CB

About the Cover: Procrustes on the Job, by M. Spira. Procrustes was the ancient Greek robber who kidnapped unwary travellers and returned with them to his apartment where he kept two beds, one short and one long. If the hapless victim was too long for the short bed, he would trim them to size. If they were too short for the long bed, he would stretch them to fit. Hence the word 'procrustian,' defined as "the tendency to achieve uniformity by violent means" (Oxford English Dictionary).

LITHA

BY PEGGY SUE McRAE

*As you cast your rays, The two lands are in festivity.
Awake they stand on their feet, You have roused them.*

—HYMN TO ATON 1350 BC

Litha, Summer Solstice or Midsummer, commemorates the sun's apex in the summer sky. Litha is the longest day of the year. At the megalithic stone circle of Stonehenge on Salisbury plain in England the sun rises in alignment with the great heelstone. In this area of southwestern Britain the sun goddess Sul was worshipped.

The New Kingdom Egyptian Pharaoh Amenhotep IV resisted the growing power of the Egyptian priesthood by attempting a religious revolution. He founded a monotheistic cult of the sun-god Aton. Amenhotep founded a new city at Amarna north of Thebes where he built a temple with a roofless sanctuary open to the sun. The conservative priesthood opposed him and after his death restored the old regime under Amenhotep's young son-in-law, the well-known King Tutankhamen.

All life on Earth is energized by the power of the sun. As we embark on our energetic summer activities it is fitting to acknowledge the sun as our power source.

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. Do not expect confirmation of receipt of a submission, unless requested. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs (prints are best) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

(ISSN 1055-8411, *Earth First! Journal*, is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. The *Earth First! Journal* is recorded on microfilm by University Microfilms, Inc.)

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SCHEDULE

The *Earth First! Journal* is published eight times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days on or about November 1, December 21, February 2, March 21, May 1, June 21, August 1, and September 21. One-year subscriptions in the US via third class mail are \$25. First class delivery is \$35. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45 (US dollars, please). Corporate and law enforcement rate is \$45.

Deadline for the next issue is

July 12

DOES EARTH FIRST! NEED A 12-STEP?

BY AVALON

"At Wounded Knee, there was absolutely no drinking but after that it was all drugs and alcohol, which weren't so much an obstacle to taking action as an impediment to an effective organization, and also something that compromised our public positions."

—DENNIS BANKS, AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT

A familiar routine occurs every Friday and Saturday night. As it grows dark, state and county parks fill with people and the sounds of hard rock, soft rock and acid rock reverberating off the native rocks. Through habit and a turn of a knob, escapees from urban environments mask over the sounds of crickets and wind in the trees. Soon flames from campfires leap high into the air, threatening to set nearby trees on fire—no doubt to keep the already comfortable summer night from being so scary. And finally, the Schlitz-induced rowdiness completes the taming of these "primitive" places making the landscape once again familiar.

Earth First! gatherings suffer from the same disregard for the night and our surroundings. We are prisoners of our own maladjusted habits, circumscribing our time together with booze. True, we hike a little farther from our vehicles. True, we leave our radios behind. But we go to Herculean (Haydukian) efforts to carry in ludicrous amounts of libations. And the sounds of the night are overlain by the obnoxious chants and dominating rants of inebriated individuals.

I envision a different way of coming together to mourn our losses and celebrate our connections. Every child is able to play, to feel deeply, to form bonds, without any need for booze. I've been on countless wilderness trips where the absence of alcohol created an atmosphere where adults explored the world more freely and with more intensity.

As a movement we have taken an essential step towards this vision by rejecting the music of the consumer culture at our gatherings. We have created our own songs which reach across human boundaries to help us connect more deeply with the natural world. Earth First! songs speak of lively resistance to a culture out of control. And I submit that the absence of radios and tape decks around the campfire has allowed musical creativity to flourish. What if there was a similar absence of alcohol?

Our music is our strength, but our beer guzzling is our weakness. On one Wild Rockies Day, vast numbers of people and vast quantities of alcohol traveled up into the mountains—at least a five hour drive each way involving equally vast quantities of gasoline—to party late into the night, then wake up and immediately drive home. Because the organizers had provided a familiar routine—tap the keg, hang out by the fire and get drunk—no one seemed to have any real contact with that place. Like snowbirds watching TV in

their RVs at night, we used that place as just another scenic backdrop.

Even if it is the almighty microbrew, we are still trying to drown out the stillness of the night and the awkwardness of being together. We do the same thing that every fraternity, every sailor on shore leave does—except we export our self-absorbed drunkenness to the woods. Most of us would cringe at the thought of frat boys invading a sacred place like a cave or hot springs with cases of beer. So why is there this silent acceptance of the frat boy mentality when Earth First! is supposed to be visionary, pronouncing the sacredness of all wild places?

A rendezvous should not be an excuse to party; it should be a time of coming together as a community. Alcohol leads imbibers to focus on each other, excluding both the non-drinkers and the natural inhabitants of the place. People who are new to EF! are put off by the rowdy cliques of drunks. The whole scene is a direct affront to recovering alcoholics, children of alcoholics and people uninterested in sophomoric antics. There is nothing redeeming, for instance, in jumping naked over a fire. It is sheer human arrogance, showing contempt for the power of the elements and the sacred gift of trees. Only a drunken fool (or an outright fool) abuses fire in that way—and the next day the same individuals will go off on how resource managers don't have respect for the natural processes of the land.

If we dare ask loggers to give up their livelihood, agency officials to question their bosses, corporate execs to hear the voice of the land, then we too should have the integrity to question our own habits. Alcohol has become a significant part of many activists' lives and much of our time together. References to booze can frequently be found in the writings of several Earth First!ers. It's become a part of this movement's identity much like the monkey wrench. Defining oneself through alcohol seems a lot like alcoholism to me.

More than just having a bunch of luses in our ranks, I believe Earth First! itself is an alcoholic movement. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been such a controversy over the decision to make this year's Northwest rendezvous alcohol-free. It would simply have been one of the many choices that rendezvous organizers must always make regarding

how to integrate ourselves with the landscape. The boycott of the rendezvous by some activists should be a clear warning that alcoholism is amidst us.

But wait, you say, rendezvous are our one chance to party with old friends. First, the EF!ers I know who say this have endless parties in their lives back in the cities in which they live or pass through. And secondly, to build a lasting movement it's imperative we strive for deeper ways to interact with friends we don't often see. Limiting our drinking binges to a post-rendezvous party in a nearby city, as the NW rendezvous did this year, seems like the direction we should be heading.

Making a gathering alcohol-free is similar to requiring people to hike to the camping and meeting areas. I have always enjoyed camping well away from the parking lot, but it is good that the decision was made for me because I tend to drive as close as I can get to my destination. I know I am not alone. Many of us would sleep inside our vehicles or camp next to them out of habit. So it is interesting to note the response to the alcohol-free NW rendezvous. Some denounced the organizers' decision as an affront to freedom and personal choice with the same vigor and the same arguments as wise users denouncing the closing of lands to ATV use.

Alcohol is a tool of oppression, not freedom.

Throughout history alcohol has torn apart the social fabric of Indigenous populations. Drugs and alcohol have been used to subjugate the masses and pacify discontent. Look at the effects of alcohol on the American Indian Movement (AIM). Look at the effects of coke on the Black Panthers and pot on the sixties radicals. Riots and revolution are staved off by addiction and numb-

ness. The Zapatistas know this. The EZLN prohibits alcohol in regions where they operate.

In the heavy drinking lands of the northern Rockies, open disregard for a no-alcohol agreement was the norm during a weeklong walk for Cove-Mallard. Our one strong Nez Perce ally brought us elk meat one evening. He had wanted to say a prayer when the meal was served but felt that praying was inappropriate when so many people had beers in their hands. His decision to bring his two teen-aged

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Shit for Brains,

Just a short note in response to the recent garbage being printed in this column regarding Friends of the Wolf and our newly found opposition. FOW direct actions in defense of the Wolf, have, for three consecutive winters, (excluding this past winter) been featured on the front page of this very rag. FOW fully intends to continue to submit articles to share with the *Journal* readership, should they be accepted. To those individuals who have nothing better to do with their time than to criticize/attack other Earth defenders, grow the fuck up! Your energies are much needed in other areas, ie. Earth defense. You may not always appreciate the

way our campaigns are run, or who runs them. All I can say is this, start your own campaign or group and run it the way you see fit. If Meese, Howler, Brett, Paulson and Joe Dibee intend to create their own Wolf defense organization, I salute them. I just hope they also consider Alaska and areas south of the Canadian boarder as possible campaign sites. If the readership does intend to financially support their actions I suggest you send donations to the Earth First! Direct Action Fund instead, to avoid your hard earned money being absorbed by the the Cold Mountain Cold Rivers alcohol slush fund. If anyone has sent for a

copy of David Barbarash's "information package" please feel free to contact me for a copy of my response to David's hate campaign. I have recently updated my response to include some insight into the economic and ethical corruption of N.Washington EF! as well as Cold Mountain Cold Rivers.

Still, for the Wolf

—DENNIS ALVEY
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Dear *Earth First! Journal* Editors,

Thanks for the excellent coverage of the outrageous libel the corporate media have perpetrated against the movement regarding the Unabomber. I would like to personally add, however, some feelings that I've had about this incident. First of all, the Unabomber is a murdering cowardly scum. The Earth First! Movement I'm a part of is non-violent and views the tactics of the Unabomber with utter contempt. Also, for those folks who believe the Unabomber had good things to say in his manifesto, the subject of how the planet is abused by the Corporate world, etc. is far better addressed by a multitude of decent, non-violent activists, authors, artists, teachers...

Lastly, a message for the corporate media and those who believe it: You can attempt to discredit us by the actions of a fanatic, but as you leave the world

in ruin the truth becomes all the more clear. Corporate capitalism created the Unabomber and wields him like a sword. Earth First! wields the truth that no sword can cut away.

For the wild places,

—BRAD BERGER

Open Letter to all Earth First!ers: First, this is not a joke.

Second, the *Journal* folk are doing a fine job, but burnout happens sooner when you aren't making a living, and these folks aren't.

So I propose a fine old custom practiced by church-going folk: tithing. The principle is simple: one tenth of your take-home pay each month goes to the church; in this case, the *Journal*.

The *Earth First! Journal* is the longest running campaign/action in Earth First! Let's give it the support it deserves.

—DENNIS

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LOCKDOWN IN TINSELTOWN

Will Playa Vista Stick in Spielberg's Throat?

BY INDY PRODDER

At approximately 5:30 am on March 26, an act of civil disobedience occurred on a patch of some of the priciest real estate on the planet, next door to a yacht marina, on the side of a road plied daily by dominant native species such as Mercedes, Lexus and airport stretch limos.

In West Los Angeles, in the heart of a proposed wetlands development known as Playa Vista, a lone female activist, looking sharp in a gray pinstripe power suit, walked past a "private property—no trespassing" sign, through a patch of mud, and up to a bulldozer, where she propped up a hand-lettered sign reading "Honk if you care that my neck is chained to this bulldozer." She proceeded to match her actions to her placard with a brace of Kryptonite locks. Then she pulled out a cellular phone and started dialing up the local media. She informed them of what she'd done and where she was, that the bulldozer was present without the benefit of an Environmental Impact Report, and that she wasn't leaving until she got a meeting with the Playa Vista developers: Bob Maguire and Steven Spielberg.

She didn't get that, but her action and arrest for trespassing made several appearances on local newscasts throughout the day. NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw was in town for the California primaries, and that evening the NBC affiliate in LA put the local footage on the satellite and Brokaw did five minutes on the fight to preserve the Ballona Wetlands and the race to develop LA's last large natural space. "It's not about box office hits," Brokaw concluded, "it's about life."

That single action—undertaken on behalf of the Venice, CA-based affinity group ET-SOS (Eco Triage-SOS)—was a blueprint for how activism can actually happen in the media capital of the world and national hotbed of lone, automotively encased, I've-got-mine anomie. LA is a long way from California's north coast, home of 2,000-member rallies against logging in old-growth forests. Here on these shifting, sunny sands, 50 people showing up for an environmental demo is news—or would be, if the local media deigned to cover it. At the national level, the big green groups routinely pass over local requests for help in protecting what open space and wildlife habitat are still extant because, well, it's LA. Most of the land we have left that is even included on the maps of regional project zones of various conservancy groups carries the designation "degraded."

The Ballona Wetlands are no exception. Once a 2,000-acre coastal marsh that was the engine behind the San Pedro fishery—then the largest in the country—it now consists of a roughly 300-acre patch of slowly dying wetlands in back of 700 acres of upland watershed. Dredging and development have effectively cut off the wetlands from the ocean. Rainfall and a heavily polluted adjacent concrete channel in the former bed of the Los Angeles River are the only sources of occasional water to keep the ecosystem and its 589 species of mammals, reptiles, amphibian, birds and flora alive.

Yet Ballona is, to a large extent, what keeps Los Angeles alive. Like all coastal wetlands, Ballona is a giant water purifier and fish nursery, providing natural flood control and groundwater recharge.

California's wetlands are refuge to millions of migratory birds, and food and foraging grounds to 55 percent of the state's endangered or threatened species. In terms of biological diversity, wetlands are the equivalent of rainforests. In California, 91 percent of the historical wetlands have been drained, diked and filled by agribusiness or coastal development.

Ballona's would-be developers—Maguire Thomas Partners, Rouse Corp. and DreamWorks SKG—would like to hike that percentage. For years, the land at Ballona was protected from development schemes by southern California's single most salient feature: overdevelopment. Potential investors were not suf-

desperate developer to become the key tenant in their 21st-century dream city. It would mean 30,000 new residents in the most densely developed area on the California coast. It would mean 200,000 additional car trips a day on the most heavily traveled road system in the US. It would be the fourth largest polluter in the city, behind the local Chevron and Gulf refineries and LA International Airport. And, of course, it would mean the end of the last open space in the city and the plants and animals that live there. It would be one more scrap of biological diversity down the tubes. But it would be... *cutting edge*.

That played. That ran up the flag pole and everybody saluted. Babe, it was just too sweet. The politicians loved it. Mayor Richard Riordan said "LA is back," and swung \$70 million in local tax breaks and 20-year property tax waivers so the fledgling \$3 billion movie studio could spend the taxpayers' money instead of their own on those pesky infrastructure costs. Chuckling appreciatively, Gov. Pete Wilson said, "When I was mayor of San Diego, I would have sold my family for a deal like this," and kicked in another \$40 million in CalTrans funds for traffic construction so that DreamWorks wouldn't have to worry about traffic mitigation costs.

The response of the politically aware and influential Hollywood entertainment community to the looming eco-disaster in their midst has been a winning smile and a firm grasp of where their next paycheck may be coming from. The EMA Newsletter, put out by the Environmental Media Association, Hollywood's green connection, recently endorsed the Playa Vista project on its front page, featuring glowing testimonials from actors known to fancy themselves as socially and environmentally concerned.

While Hollywood ducked and covered, however, 1995 was also the year that saw the formation of the group Citizens United to Save All of Ballona—a 40+ coalition of neighborhood associations, local activists and conservation groups, including Los Angeles EF!—and the first organized protests against the entire proposed development, including the developer's promised "restoration."

Mail and phone campaigns are now gearing up, neighborhoods are being canvassed, a California Environmental Quality Act lawsuit over DreamWorks playing fast and loose with EIR requirements has a June trial date, and meetings of the coalition groups around town are getting larger and more vocal. At the same time, the developers are getting anxious and the bulldozers are proliferating. That means that LA and Ballona will soon need many more people with Kryptonite locks and some free time—also lockboxes, tripods, barricade experience and background or training in non-violent action that can be put to good use while the temporary restraining orders roll and the TV cameras prod the great urban beast to the threshold of awareness.

A little of that will go a very long way in LA, where no one had ever seen the like until a woman decided to take a meeting with a bulldozer in March. (At her arraignment three weeks later, the trespassing charge was dropped when the developer, knowing a jury trial and more media coverage were in the offing, declined even to file the case.) We're talking law enforcement types who think CD is a little silver disc that plays Randy Travis tunes. We're talking studio executives in Armani suits who just *do not need this kind of aggravation*. There is not a large, homicidally inclined logger in sight.

The developers are still going through the lengthy process of permit approvals for the final two-thirds of their mad vision of a shining city in the swamp. They don't want to attract a lot of attention. There will be many places along the way in which their plans can go awry.

For those able to give of their time and expertise, it's showtime.



ficiently brain-dead to back a developer looking to add to the area's 39 percent office vacancy rate.

To head off the possibility of Ballona being acquired and preserved as public land, project proponents had the land upzoned from light agricultural to high-density land use in 1982, vastly increasing its assessed value. The LA City Council okayed Playa Vista's incorporation into the city in November 1985, rewriting zoning laws to give the developers the vast tracts of offices, retail space, condos and apartments they wanted. The Council overrode eleven significant unmitigatable adverse impacts in the Environmental Impact Report with the immortal words: "The city is going to make money."

In 1990, Maguire Thomas settled a lawsuit filed by the Friends of the Ballona Wetlands, National Audubon Society and others by agreeing to a Potemkin village style "restoration" of a small patch of wetlands surrounded by strangulating high-density development—the kind of restoration plan that refers to an urban runoff catch basin as a "freshwater marsh." The compromise ploy defused the only effective organized opposition to that date, and the Friends were required to state their unequivocal support for the development whenever any public criticism should arise, in perpetuity. (Subsequent to the settlement and its creation of a close, personal relationship between the Friends and the developers, the attorneys for Friends of the Ballona Wetlands have been collecting paychecks from Maguire Thomas Partners.)

Local enviros soon realized they'd been had, broke with the Friends, and started disrupting the harmonious peace of the compromise settlement. In 1993, to maintain order, the LA City Council jacked up the filing fee required to appeal the latest round of Playa Vista permits from \$64 to \$64,000, then repealed the fee hike soon after the filing deadline had passed and adequate public review of the project had been prevented.

And yet, even with this litany of corruption, sell-out and betrayal of the public trust, in southern California's basket-case real estate market the developers still couldn't breathe life into the biggest proposed development in Los Angeles history.

Then Hollywood happened. Late in 1995, Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen—aka DreamWorks SKG—were prevailed upon by the

WARD VALLEY IS NOT FOR NUKE DUMPS

BY DANIEL PATTERSON

Just as temperatures begin to heat up for the summer, so does the battle over a nuclear waste dump planned in California's East Mojave desert. Ward Valley, the proposed site of the dump, is located just east of Needles, California, about 20 miles from the Colorado River.

Area Indian tribes consider Ward Valley sacred land with significant religious, cultural and archaeological values. The tribal nations and environmental activists making up the Ward Valley Coalition have been cooperatively fighting for years against the state of California and its selected dump contractor, US Ecology, to stop the dump. The dump would accept nuclear waste from Arizona, North Dakota and South Dakota as well as California.

The proposed dump site is currently under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) control. In order for the dump to be built, the BLM must transfer the land to the State of California. The Ward Valley Coalition has been focusing its efforts on halting that land transfer, which totals 1,000 acres. Although a few times in the last year the land transfer seemed imminent, it has not happened yet.

The nuclear industry has been prodding the 104th Congress to step in and force the Department of Interior to give the land to the state immediately. Senate Bill 1596, sponsored by Senators Murkowski (R-AK) and Johnson (D-LA), and its House version, HB 3053, sponsored by Representatives Young (R-AK) and Bilbray (R-CA), would force the land transfer and allow dump construction to begin immediately. President Clinton is aware of the importance of California to his re-election bid, however, and it appears likely that he will veto any bill forcing a nuclear waste dump that is unpopular with California voters, at least until the election is over.

Opposition to the Ward Valley dump proposal has further weakened American Ecology Corp. of Boise, Idaho, the financially wrecked parent company of US Ecology. American Ecology's problems

"raise substantial doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern," according to a June 10 *Business Week* article. American Ecology blames the Interior Department and anti-dump activists for delaying the project, which would bring in \$50 million annually. Even pro-corporate *Business Week* declared, "American Ecology's financial woes cast doubt on the future of a nationwide policy to bury low-level radioactive waste."

This spring, the BLM announced it would be preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on the land transfer proposal. California State BLM Director Ed Hastey cited the need for the new report by saying that "new information has come forward that deserves analysis and opportunity for public comment."

Hastey may be referring to revelations last fall about US Ecology's dump at Beatty, Nevada. US Ecology used the Beatty dump as a model for the Ward Valley dump, since the terrain and rainfall are similar at the two sites. Tritium from the Beatty dump migrated to within 10 feet of the water table after the dump was in operation for only 30 years. Concentrations of tritium several times the legal drinking water standard were found at the fence that surrounds the Beatty dump. It was also revealed that this information was not disclosed to the National Academy of Sciences during its review of the safety of the proposed Ward Valley dump.

The BLM held its first Ward Valley SEIS workshop in Sacramento on June 3. The agency had informed

activists that they would not be allowing oral testimony. Around 2:30 pm, a group of about 150 protesters, including Native elders, moved into the workshop meeting room at the Red Lion Inn. As the workshop began, tribal leaders informed BLM officials that the coalition wanted to give oral testimony. As the feds mulled that over the coalition took control.

To make their intentions clear, activists brought in a sound system and recording equipment and set it up in the room. Legions of police and Interior Department officials did not intervene as the coalition peacefully took over and began to speak.

Steve Lopez of the Fort Mojave tribe spoke against the dump project and its potential harm to the threatened desert tortoise, a sacred animal to the Mojave people. "It is hard for us to explain the sacred ties between us and the tortoise," he said. "I don't know how the BLM will be able to decipher this from their standpoint, but it is important to us."

Other activists articulated the potential risk of contamination of the Colorado River and harm to life that is dependent on its waters. Federal officials sat quietly and listened to the activists speak.

No one at the workshop spoke in favor of the proposal or US Ecology. There were no arrests and over 50 people spoke out in defense of Ward Valley. Media coverage was excellent. It was a good day for the movement!

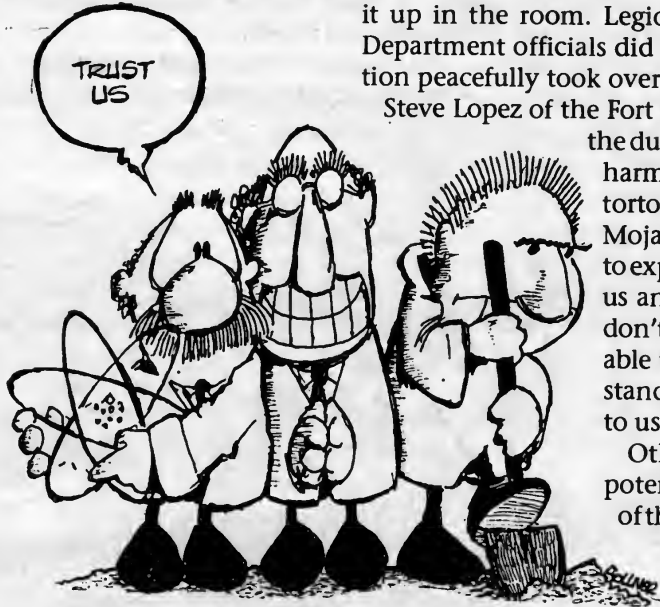
San Bernardino was the site of a second public scoping workshop on June 5. Having learned its lesson, BLM came to this meeting prepared to allow oral testimony. After a short press conference outside, the crowd of 90 moved into the room at the National Orange Show grounds. Preston Arrowweed spoke for the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance: "I'm worried about the fish, wildlife, and what was meant to be. I speak for those living things, every fish, every quail, who cannot speak here today," he said. "You cannot change what is meant to be, because if you do it will wipe us out."

Activists also pointed out that the Ward Valley land-transfer proposal would violate recommendations of the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan, completed in 1994. The recovery plan recommends that no new dumps be allowed on critical habitat for the endangered desert tortoise. The tortoise recovery plan also specifically notes that the desert tortoise habitat and population at Ward Valley is particularly robust and of high value to the recovery of the species.

One of the lighter moments of the hearing was when an activist sang "Plutonium Pete," in honor of California Governor Pete Wilson, a strong advocate of the Ward Valley dump. Wilson declared on February 16 that the state would halt plans for the dump if the land was not transferred within six months; that puts the deadline at August 16. Wilson has shunned state participation in the SEIS process, claiming that all necessary analysis has already been done. It seems certain that the land transfer will not happen while the SEIS process is underway, and that should be for at least another nine months to a year or more.

Since October, 1995, activists have peacefully occupied the proposed dumpsite and dubbed it "Nobody's Wasteland." The coalition remains on the site, prepared to increase its level of non-violent direct action to protect Ward Valley.

You are encouraged to spend some time defending your public land in Ward Valley this summer. Activists will enjoy the finest in remote desert living as they relax in the comfort of spacious, specially cooled tents. Bring friends and a positive attitude. Be prepared for desert. Please do not bring weapons, illegal drugs or alcohol. Nobody's Wasteland is located south of the Water Road exit off I-40, about 22 miles west of Needles, California. For more information contact the Ward Valley Coalition Headquarters at 107 F Street, Needles CA 92363; (619) 326-6267; fax (619) 326-6268; e-mail savewardvalley@rippers.com.



!SAVE SAN QUINTIN!

BY ALAN WHITE

Approximately 200 miles south of the California border, on the west coast of harshly beautiful and NAFTA-threatened Baja California, lies San Quintin (pronounced sân keen-teen). Actually, there are several San Quintins. There is the San Quintin valley. There is the bustling city of San Quintin. And then, dangerously close to the small city, there is the huge "bahia," or bay, over three miles wide near its mouth and already surrounded in some areas by summer homes. This bay, the wetlands around it, and the magnificent peninsula that bounds it on the west for almost 10 miles—including interior volcanoes, sand dunes and two barrier beaches—are now under assault by the rapacious greed of international capitalism.

PRO ESTEROS, an organization formed some 20 years ago to protect the fragile coastal wetlands of southern California and northern Mexico, first learned of the projected disaster in December of '95. Sources inside the Mexican tourism office in Ensenada informed PRO ESTEROS of the development, as the organization is well-known among middle-class Baja Californians for its ability to develop good scientific data and mobilize preservation support. (Their Brant Project, for example, has gotten San Quintin high school students involved in saving the black brant, a sea-goose that is dependent on its San Quintin stopovers.)

PRO ESTEROS officials immediately went to their Mexican colleagues, who eventually got the Secretariat of Environmental and Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) to postpone any permits to developers until a land-use plan is finished. The Secretariat also promised that permits would not be awarded without PRO ESTEROS' involvement.



The pristine bahia falsa at San Quintin

SEMARNAP also agreed to distribute copies of PRO ESTEROS' own proposal and suggested that the organization invite other government officials for a guided tour of the location.

Can anything be done to save this pristine area and its wetlands? Certainly supporting PRO ESTEROS is helpful. But the binational group is both modest and moderate in its approach, and its ultimate effects may be mitigational at best. Some might argue that it is Mexico's land to be used as the Mexican see fit. But this of course is a specious argument from an ecological point of view, when it is transnational money driving development attempts. Could this region be converted legally into a national park or wilderness area that would best benefit the whole hemisphere? Is such a thing even feasible? Are there any Mexican activists who could stop this catastrophe before it even starts? Save San Quintin!

More information is available from PRO ESTEROS Co-Chair Patricia Flanagan, c/o San Diego Museum of Natural History, POB 1390, San Diego, CA 92112. Telephone/fax the Mexican office by dialing directly; (011) 52 617 86050.

Appalachian Wilderness Under Seige

BY SHERMAN BAMFORD

Winding over the ridges west of Abingdon, Virginia and north of Kingsport, Tennessee—just about as far west as you can get in Virginia—you are sure to pass the Clinch Ranger District of the Jefferson National Forest, one of the largest reserves of public land in the coal country of Appalachia. To outsiders, Appalachia is best known for money-making riches like coal, timber, and natural gas (with contrasting abject poverty for the majority of non-"stakeholders"). Biologists and locals who have hiked, hunted or fished in the area, know of far greater riches. They have a first hand knowledge of the striking beauty and biological abundance of the Clinch.

North of the Clinch is the Breaks, a 1,600-foot gorge with sheer cliffs that are unrivaled in the southern Appalachians. At the center of the Breaks is the Russell Fork, one of the most challenging stretches of whitewater in all of eastern North America.

The Breaks slice through Pine Mountain, the narrow ridge dividing Kentucky and Virginia in the heart of the Cumberland Mountain bioregion. Pine Mountain and the Cumberland Mountains were studied extensively by Dr. Lucy Braun in the early part of this century. Dr. Braun, considered one of great ecologists of the modern era, was drawn to the forests of the Cumberland Mountains because of their exemplary mixed mesophytic forests. Historically, the mixed mesophytic forests of the Cumberland Mountains supported a higher diversity of tree and plant species than virtually any temperate forest in North America.

The Clinch Ranger District has holdings only on the drier south side of Pine Mountain. The south side of Pine Mountain, especially the Laurel Fork Roadless Area, may yield many significant old-growth sites because of inaccessibility or site conditions.

Travel south and you pass through the Black Mountains, a hilly section that is topographically more typical of Kentucky than the ridges and valleys of Virginia. The Black Mountains are not publicly owned. They are heavily

strip-mined and roaded, as is most of the private land in Appalachia. Further south are the publicly-owned Cave Springs, Lake Keokee, Roaring Branch and Little Stone Mountain section of the Clinch, an area with one or more existing roadless areas that can be expanded. Much of this area has rich limestone-underlain soil with a diversity of plant species. Major Indiana bat caves are nearby.

The largest collection of publicly owned land in the Clinch is the Powell

and the adjacent proposed Straight Fork Research Natural Area. It also includes the Big Stony Gorge—a beautiful, hikeable gorge through a remarkable cove forest; Staunton Creek Gorge—a rare dolomite-underlain ecosystem, and Pickern Mountain—an approximately 700-acre mixed mesophytic and oak-pine old-growth forest. Other unique areas such as Little Stony Gorge, Guest River Gorge, the Gladly Fork Beaver Meadow and Machine Creek have also been documented by the Division of Natural Heritage, old-growth surveys and activists.

Mary Byrd Davis wrote in her article, "Threatened Eastern Old Growth," that recent old growth discoveries in the Clinch include a 275-acre area, a 230-acre area, and a 900-acre area, all in the Powell-Stone Mountain plateau area. She points out that, "Virginia Natural Heritage recommends preservation for all these newly found old-growth sites. However, on the Jefferson, pending revision of the Management Plan, the safety of old growth largely depends on decisions by district rangers. Clinch old growth includes accessible mesophytic hardwood types, and the Clinch is under heavy pressure to produce timber." (*Wild Earth*, Fall 1995, p. 55)

Activists are making some headway in the Clinch Ranger District, despite its history as a special interest smorgasbord.

After unsuccessfully appealing the Big Flat Top Timber Sale, Bob Mueller of Virginians for Wilderness and Sherman Bamford of Preserve Appalachian Wilderness took the case to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), an agency overseeing and auditing action of the Department of Agriculture. As a result of the OIG investigation, four timber sales were permanently halted due to serious procedural failures. Unfortunately, the worst timber sales—three clearcut units on steep hillsides sold to Louisiana-Pacific—were allowed to proceed. There is concern that the Forest Service may try to repackage and re-release the halted sales or increase logging elsewhere in the Clinch.

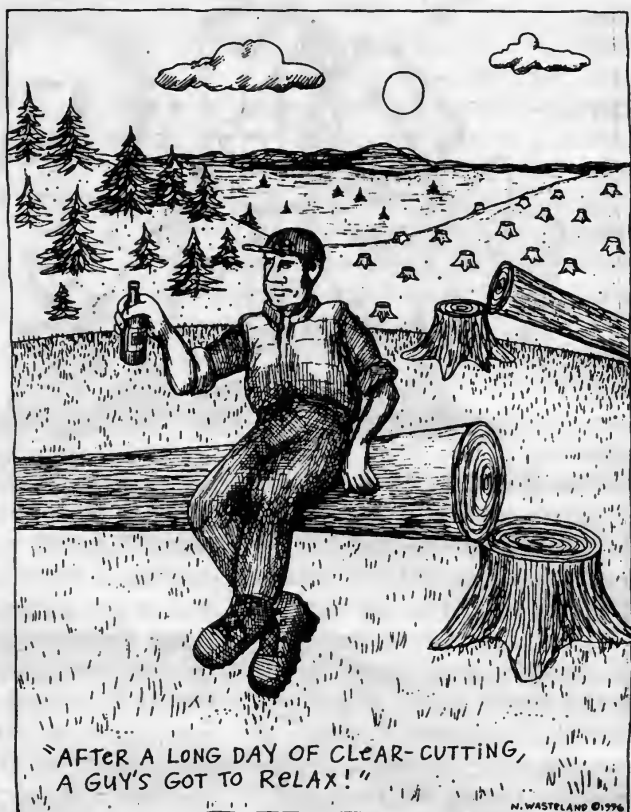
Following the Big Flat Top debacle, a new District Ranger has stepped in and now more timber sales have been

approved. One of these, the Cove Creek Timber Sale, is a 370-acre sale in Cerulean warbler habitat. The sale avoids documented stands of trees 80 years and older, but it proposes 259 acres of overstory removal which would remove taller, canopy trees on which the warbler depends. The Forest Service admits that such logging is even-aged management and that the age of the stands would be reduced by more than 43 percent. The imperiled Cerulean warblers need large unfragmented tracts of forest habitat. In addition there are concerns about construction of helicopter pad access roads in steep, erodible areas. The Cove Creek proposal comes at a time when there are proposals to log numerous other areas—other parts of Laurel Fork Opportunity Area, Machine Creek, High Knob, and even a small section of the Devils Fork Roadless Area.

Devils Fork is one of the finest roadless areas in the Clinch. The Devils Fork proposal is a relatively small proposal using horse logging. It was proposed under the Salvage Rider and could include steep slopes (35 to 70 percent) and is one of a number of intrusions into roadless areas. When units in the Big Stony RARE II (the roadless area that includes Big Flat Top) were roaded and logged between the early '80s and '90s, the Forest Service never analyzed the impacts of logging and roadbuilding on the roadless area, making them essentially illegal. Under the current Forest Plan revision process, the Forest Service is attempting to eliminate both the Roaring Branch and Little Stony Roadless Areas from the roadless inventory.

Please write Orland S. Olsen, Jr., District Ranger, Clinch Ranger District, 9416 Darden Drive, Wise, VA 24293 and William Damon, Jr., Forest Supervisor, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA 24019-3050; (540) 265-6049. Tell them that the Clinch is an ecological treasure. We need large tracts of unfragmented mature/old growth forests, not additional resource extraction. Stop logging Cove Creek, Devils Fork, Laurel Fork OA, Big Flat Top, High Knob and other significant areas. Protect existing roadless areas and add new roadless areas to the inventory.

For more information, contact Sherman Bamford at Preserve Appalachian Wilderness, Southwest Virginia Office, POB 13192, Roanoke, VA 24031-3192; (540) 982-0492.



Mountain-Stone Mountain plateau, a tall, wide block of sandstone and shale mountains dropping sharply to the northwest and dissected by steep gorges on the south and east sides. The forested side of the plateau forms the headwaters of several tributaries of the undammed Clinch River which supports one of the highest populations of endangered freshwater mussels in the world.

The Nature Conservancy studies the rare mussels at its Pendleton Island Preserve, six to eight miles south of the plateau. Other unique features of the plateau are 4,200-foot plus High Knob—known for rare plants and breeding neotropical birds; Laurel Fork opportunity area—important watersheds with relatively abundant mature/old growth forests and Cerulean warblers; Devils Fork Roadless Area

Pulp Fiction: BLM CUTS PHANTOM FORESTS

Forest inventories used as the basis for planning Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales throughout the western United States are outdated, inaccurate or incomplete according to a two year investigation by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

A recently released PEER "white paper," titled *Phantom Forests*, also concludes that the BLM has vastly exaggerated the success of reforestation efforts in its Public Domain timber program, a factor which further undermines sound management and encourages over-harvesting.

The PEER study, the first intensive review of the BLM's timber program, reveals that most district inventories were last updated in the 1960s and 1970s, despite an agency policy that forest inventories be updated every 10 years. In some cases, plans are based on aerial photographs taken in the 1950s.

Other districts lack inventories altogether or misclassify marginal timber producing areas as productive. PEER inspected and surveyed BLM districts in five major timber producing states: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and Montana.

"Our on-the-ground inspections prove that the Bureau of Land Management is badly mismanaging fragile public forests," said PEER Executive Director Jeff DeBonis, a former US Forest Service timber sale planner. "The agency's data base about these public resources is the bureaucratic equivalent of pulp fiction." Compounding the BLM's timber planning problems is the failure to replace harvested stands. Many districts PEER surveyed reported healthy tracts, when reforesting had actually failed due to clearcutting and other problems. "BLM is managing phantom forests that exist only on paper," DeBonis commented.

Federal law requires BLM to practice sustainable forestry. "Environmentally sound, sustainable timber management rests on three pillars: accurate and complete forest inventories; careful administration of timber cutting so that it reflects the forest plan; and precise follow-up, including reforestation to preserve forest stands," stated DeBonis. "The collapse of any one of these pillars dooms the entire venture. PEER has found that BLM's Public Domain forestry program fails on all three counts."

"Because BLM's basic planning tool for designing and assessing timber sales is so inaccurate, the claim of sustainability is what we call a 'wag' or 'wild ass guess'," DeBonis concluded.

For a copy of *Phantom Forests*, contact PEER at 2001 'S' St. NW, Suite 570, Washington, DC 20009-1125; (202) 265-PEER; fax (202) 265-4192; e-mail: 76554.133@compuserve.com.

Nuclear Survivors Rally at Watts Bar

The temperature in the Chernobyl reactor rose uncontrollably on Friday, April 26, 1986, resulting in a melt-down and massive steam explosion. A second explosion blew dozens of millions of curies of radioactivity into the environment.

More than 130,000 people were evacuated from the area surrounding Chernobyl; about one million people now live under a regime of special radiological control. Six hundred thousand people, including 250,000 children, received high doses of radiation and have been entered into a medical register similar to the one set up for survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nearly three million acres of agricultural land is lost for decades due to contamination with radioactive caesium, strontium and plutonium.

On April 25, 1996, survivors of Chernobyl and Three Mile Island, representatives of the Eastern band Cherokee, whistle blowers (ex-workers fired for reporting dangerous practices), Earth First!ers and others gathered to commemorate the Chernobyl disaster. They camped across the Tennessee River from the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) nuclear plant at Watts Bar and held a memorial vigil that night.

Watts Bar, besides being dangerous as hell, will cost eight billion dollars. Women's cancer rates in Tennessee are already 16 percent higher than the national average. The TVA tells the public that the facility is safe. But hundreds of people who worked at the plant have reported dangerous situations, short-cuts and accidents. They've been building the facility for 23 years, and for 23 years those folks have been talking. Despite TVA's hassling and firing the whistleblowers, the word is out.

The morning after the vigil began with a rally. "The most serious and most dangerous revealed effect is the genetic destruction increasing exponentially with each generation," said one Chernobyl victim.

"Every fourth child born to a survivor has some sort of mutation or deviation," said another survivor.

Everyone loaded onto buses after the rally and drove across the river to the Watts Bar nuclear facility. The arrestees linked arms in groups of five or more and walked in lines up to the property's perimeter where the cops were waiting. Meanwhile, an Earth First!er or two jumped the guardrail beside the road, ran into the woods that surround the facility and planted spiderwort, a plant with flowers that

turn pink when exposed to radioactivity. Spiderwort was also planted at the rally site along the road leading to the facility.

There weren't any workers present at the entrance, only security forces who declared their authority and ordered the protesters to leave. An EFler yelled, "These people stole this land from the Cherokee! The Cherokee are the only ones with authority here!" Then some Cherokee families came to the front and said the protesters could stay and that the police should leave, at which point the cops started arresting people. The police used pain holds (which were mostly ineffective, thank goodness) to subdue arrestees.

After everyone was busted the police declared the rally unlawful and demanded everyone split or face arrest. Bond was set at \$500 and everyone was out by evening. Several cops who were brought in from outside the region said openly that they were glad they didn't have to live



Protesters gather across the Tennessee River from the Watts Bar Nuclear Facility

near the plant. Several asked why some of the folks had painted slashes across their throats. We told them it was because that's where they open the throat to operate on the thyroid of Chernobyl survivors.

We struck a deal in court with the DA a couple weeks later. About two-thirds of the arrestees accepted the \$25 fine and paid a total of \$179 after court costs. The rest of us opted to plead not guilty and engage in a court battle. Media coverage was overall sympathetic and thorough.

For more information on Watts Bar, contact Katuah EFl at 2312 E. 17th St., Chattanooga, TN, 37404; (423) 624-3939. For copies of video from the weekend write Media Rights at Rt. 1, Box 304, Whitwell, TN, 37397; (423) 949-5922.



Earth First! and Native Alliance Halts Cutting at Enola Hill

BY MARK LIPE AND SUE NACKONEY

"These two must be world record lockdown artists," observed a dismayed Freddy as two EF! activists used lockboxes to close a US Forest Service gate at Enola Hill on the southwest slopes of Mt. Hood, Oregon.



Enola Hill inspires mass violation of the federal closure to view an alleged "selective cut."

The two tree-huggers-turned-gate-huggers were among 68 activists arrested in a month of protests at Enola Hill, an area of Native American spiritual and cultural significance and a likely candidate for inclusion on the National Historic Register.

The 253-acre timber sale has been an issue of controversy since its initial planning in 1980. The sale was finally released for sale under the infamous Salvage Rider. The federal temporary restraining order, which halted logging due to potential damages to cultural resources, was removed on April 23. In response, EF!ers arrived the next day to place our own temporary restraining order on the gate.

Thus began the latest direct action campaign to defend an area which the Yakima, Warm Springs and Nez Perce traditional people regard as sacred due to a millennia of use as a vision quest site, a medicine gathering area, and place where healing ceremonies are held. Enola Hill lies about 45 miles southeast of Portland, adjacent to the Mt. Hood Wilderness Area and Zig Zag Mountain. The hill rises to 3200 feet and is home to a native forest of cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir.

The terrain here is steep, and the forested slopes protect stream habitat for various amphibians and some of the last runs of wild coho salmon. These forests also provide habitat for eagle, hawk, owl, cougar, bobcat, coyote, deer, elk, bear and wolverine. It is in this area that the magnificent cascades of Spirit Horse Falls look out to a mostly unbroken corridor of forest in the Zig Zag area along US Highway 26.

This is a place where, according to Yakima legend, the red-tailed hawk and raven put aside their instinctive animosity and coexist harmoniously. Such events are the very substance of their prophecy; a prophecy that people from all walks of life would come together to protect Enola Hill, and one that proved true.

Earth First!'s initial involvement at Enola Hill was back in 1992, when the Forest Service allowed privately-owned land there to be logged. This kicked off a series of protests and lockdowns where 27 people were arrested and a powerful Native American presence stood in support.

The Forest Service continues to disregard eloquent and heartfelt Native American testimony as to the sacredness of the area, denying that logging activities desecrate what is to traditional people the equivalent of a church or a temple. The Freddie's latest excuse for desecrating this sacred land is provided by the "forest health" Salvage Rider. Their propaganda claims that laminated root rot (*phellinus weirii*) necessitates logging. This supposedly renegade fungus only travels at a rate of two feet per year and is a native species that facilitates natural succession and forest diversity.

Native Americans, Earth First!ers and local supporters set up a peace camp to move beyond the

rhetoric of the timber wars. From the start, we established a code of nonviolence, and we prohibited property destruction. The camp, situated on the banks of the Zig Zag River, provided a staging area for direct action, despite the omnipresent law enforcement. Before the camp's tarps were even hung, the Freddie's were patrolling, taking down license plate numbers, filming all the visitors and generally trampling over everyone's civil rights.

Despite the high level of surveillance and harassment, many successful actions were pulled off. One night, under tight security, a second lockdown occurred on the same gate as the first action. Daring EF! activists dashed out of the trees to lock the gate shut, subjecting it once again to the flame of the Freddie's blowtorch. Another action involved defying the closure and entering the logging units. The chainsaws were silent on Enola Hill that day.

Many activists chose not to cooperate with the arresting force and were carried out on stretchers to the waiting jail bus. Many were dragged, dumped and otherwise roughly handled as the Forest Service and Clackamas County Sheriff's SWAT team displayed their frustration over the successful disruption of logging operations.

A later action involved locking down a departing log truck as it exited a closure gate, which blocked the main highway access. Rain-drenched protesters stood for hours holding signs and banners at the truck entrance while the ever-present law enforcement watched intently at first, disinterestedly soon thereafter. Eventually, their eyelids grew heavy with boredom. Then, SHAZAM!, like greased lightning, people blocked a departing log hearse while lockdown artists secured themselves to its belly.

The snoozing Freddie's were perturbed, to put it mildly.

Among the ranks of those arrested were several grandmothers, high school students and others who defy the media's portrayal of protesters as fringe-element radicals. The media, however, seemed intent on portraying these acts of civil disobedience as the acts of maverick lawbreakers and terrorists. To flavor the sensationalist story, one station showed scenes of our peaceful protest interspersed with footage of the Oklahoma City bombing. Then they tried to connect us to the Unabomber and to associate our intent with that of Islamic Jihad.

The Forest Service did their utmost to marginalize us as well. Their spokesperson informed the media that they feared encounters with environmentalists and were even afraid to be seen wearing government uniforms in public. The Forest Service and Clackamas Sheriff Department personnel showed up in bullet-proof jackets and with a SWAT team for backup. German shepherds patrolled the closure and camouflaged Freddie's hid in the forest. In Orwellian fashion, peaceful protesters were portrayed as violent terrorists.

The Portland chapter of WALL (Witness Against Lawless Logging) organized large rallies in Portland and near Enola Hill. This included one of the largest rallies yet against the Salvage Rider, where nearly a thousand people assembled to witness the devastation caused by logging on Enola. Another rally motivated 200 people to enter the closure area and view a clearcut the Forest Service repeatedly refers to as a selective cut.

Native Americans from Warm Springs, Yakima and the First Nations Survival Support Network visited the camp frequently to express deep gratitude and to offer prayers for our well being and the success of our efforts. Earth First!ers from Olympia to Arcata left their own pressing issues to assist us with person power, equipment, skills and experience.

Other forms of support included the Ancient Forest Hotline, a local and free 800 phone number staffed by volunteers. The hotline was updated daily to provide news of upcoming and ongoing actions,

as well as to solicit items the camp needed. Community sponsored KBOO radio in Portland was unrivaled in its dedicated coverage of Enola Hill activities. Their remote coverage of protests included a live broadcast of activists shutting down cutting.

Many trees have been killed at Enola Hill, and the surrealistic sight of helicopter-borne trees whizzing over the forest canopy continues. The earth trembles daily with the crashing reverberations of trees being cut off the steep slopes.

Despite the death culture's desecration of this sacred site on Wy'East (Mt. Hood), undeniable gains were made by the supporters of Enola Hill. Alliances were strengthened as environmentalists stood again in solidarity with Native Americans. The fortitude and conviction of the growing community will persevere long after the helicopters and chainsaws have departed.

Many peace camp activists have already relocated and are preparing for a summer on the Salvage Rider circuit, working as the paramedics of the environmental movement. Earth First! has once again shown a willingness to step in when all other recourse has failed, and has taken action inspirational in reaching a wider community of people.

Mt. Hood remains standing, the presiding deity over its forests and wounded slopes. The community that supports it must continue to grow and have courage to stand together in its defense.

ANPO CEREMONIAL SITE UNDER IMMEDIATE THREAT

The First Nations Survival Support Network (FNSSN) and Anpo, Inc. have issued an urgent plea for support. Anpo's Native American Cultural & Spiritual Encampment near Enola Hill is under immediate threat from two timber sales, Haze and Hazel-2. (Anpo is a Lakota word meaning dawn or day break. Anpo, Inc. operates the Native youth encampment.)

The two sales are clearcuts surrounding the Ceremonial Camp. Log truck access to one sale would run within 10 feet of the Sundance Arbor where worshipers from several First Nations gather for traditional rituals. Both cuts would be within sight and sound of the sweat lodge, arbor and camp sites.

In addition to the cultural affront represented by the planned cuts, the logging would devastate a pristine and sensitive riparian meadow surrounded by a centuries-old Ponderosa pine forest.

Traditionally this is the land of the Tygh Bands of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes. Fifteen years ago Anpo, Inc. and Brave Buffalo (Devere Eastman) set up an educational/indigenous youth camp and secured a lease from the Mt. Hood National Forest. Brave Buffalo's vision was to have a place where people could come and learn traditional ways.

On January 29 of this year Anpo received a letter from Regional Forester John E. Lowe (now retired), stating that, "All structures and improvements, except those owned by the Forest Service, are to be removed by May 1, 1996... at which time the Forest Service will remove the improvements and restore the site at your expense."

Additionally, on April 1 archaeologists resumed digging in the Sacred Sun Dance area. Some of these digs are within 25 feet of the entrance of the Sacred Sun Dance Arbor. In a meeting held with the Forest Service, they stated that there would be one archaeological dig on the other side of the Barlow Trail. There have been at least eight digs so far.

The FNSSN is asking for people to come and help stop the genocide and desecration of their land and their ancestor's spiritual remains. Visit the camp to bear witness to the sacred and environmentally sensitive nature of the site and to protest its plunder. Please call in advance in order to receive an orientation on how to visit in a manner sensitive to its use as a worship center.

To give support (volunteer, donations, camping supplies, non-perishable food, tools, etc.) contact the FNSSN at POB 42608, Portland, OR, 97242; (503) 635-0460. All donations are tax deductible; checks should be made out to "Anpo, Inc." For an update on the current situation call the Ancient Forest Hotline at (503) 295-6828 or (800) 283-5926.

Warner Creek: The Salvage Sale that Wouldn't Go Away

BY JOHN GREEN

Warner Creek was part of a spotted owl Habitat Conservation Area when arsonists torched it in the fall of 1991. There followed five years of meaningless public input, court cases, one million dollars spent on a sham Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and more Freddy lies and ineptitude than you can shake a black stick at. But it now appears (to the surprise of only a few) that the decision to salvage log and utterly trash Warner Creek was made perhaps even before the match was struck.

The Willamette National Forest issued a plan under the Salvage Rider to expand vastly the logging at Warner Creek. The proposed Warner South salvage sale would more than double the cut called for in the final recovery plan of the EIS, to 19 million board feet, making it the largest current sale on the Willamette National Forest. Leaked Forest Service documents reveal that plans for this expansion of clearcutting originated in April, 1995, months before the Salvage Rider became a reality.

These People Are Twisted

The Freddie's logic is Orwellian, but try to follow it: The logging was originally planned on the somewhat laughable assumption that it would make the area safe from future devastating wildfire while growing the old growth of the future, and protect the lives of firefighters by fragmenting the area with fuelbreaks to prevent what had already burned from burning again. Now the Forest Service is saying the logging must be expanded to ensure that the loggers are safe while logging to ensure the safety of firefighters, etc., etc. But in order to do this, all the trees must be removed, and the slash (the most flammable part) must be left (creating a fire hazard). Reforestation efforts to follow would create closely spaced, even-aged tree plantations—you know, the kind that burn real hot. Amazing! Actually, it may not be possible to reforest the area at all. Because of its dry, south-facing aspect, Warner South could be permanently converted to highly flammable chaparral. Reforestation efforts in burned over plantations nearby have failed twice.

So clearcuts which were originally planned at two acres each have been expanded to 40 acres; the Freddie's plan to strip the south side of Big Bunchgrass Ridge of all trees. And the 40-acre clearcuts all fit neatly around 206 acres of existing (and not recovering very well) clearcuts, adding up to one big clearcut of 326 acres—not exactly spotted owl habitat.

But wait, there's more!

Stream protection buffers, normally 175 feet, have been reduced to 50 feet, and the loggers will be given discretion to cut and remove any and all "hazard" trees in the buffers.

As if that wasn't enough, the removal of the natural regrowth—10,000 seedlings per acre in some areas—and thousands of large snags will double the landslide potential in the area. This would be reckless in the wake of the wet winter of 1995-96 when catastrophic logging-related slides struck all over the Northwest's national forests. Who cares that the Forest Service already spent \$37,000 on a watershed stability project immediately above the

Warner South sale area? Apparently not Forest Supervisor Darrel Kenops, who claims that old-growth snags don't hold the soil any better than stumps anyway. Contrary to his own silviculturists and technicians, he also claims there has been no natural regrowth on sizable chunks of the area.

The Warner South sale is straight out of Alternative 'F', the original preferred alternative in the EIS. It called for massive salvage logging, but had to be withdrawn because of the firestorm of criticism it sparked; the Willamette National Forest was buried under a landslide of thousands of angry letters. Of course, the fact that the Willamette's own spotted owl oversight committee found that the logging would be legally indefensible—blatantly destroying spotted owl habitat—also influenced the decision to withdraw it the first time around. But now the Freddie's don't have to worry about trifling legalities, thanks to the Bill Clinton Lawless Logging Salvage Rider. It's log away, and environment be damned!

Warner South puts us right back to the fall of '92, when Alternative F was selected, at least partly, because it would help the re-election campaigns of George Bush and Bob Packwood by sucking up to the timber industry. So now we are confronted with the ugly spectacle of Bill Clinton implementing the forest destruction policies of the Reagan-Bush administrations. At long last, it's come to this.

There Is Hope for Warner Creek

But don't lose hope just yet. Freddy ineptitude can work in our favor, too.

The Forest Service ignored the scoping period required for decisions which alter EIS's under the Salvage Rider, and the legal notice of the sale required under the rider was printed with the wrong phone number (some poor guy in Oakridge got a lot of angry calls that day), and they tried to get away with a 20-day comment period instead of the

ists just won't get out of the road. The blockade is now in its tenth month and forest defenders dug in at Warner Creek are redoubling their efforts. The Warner South sale will be opposed with even greater determination.

The Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project (CFEEP), backed by the region's top ecologists, has proposed the creation of a Research Natural Area encompassing the entire Warner Creek burn. CFEEP drafted a letter to President Clinton protesting the sale which has garnered the signatures of individuals and groups across the country (1,575,000 people had signed as of press time).

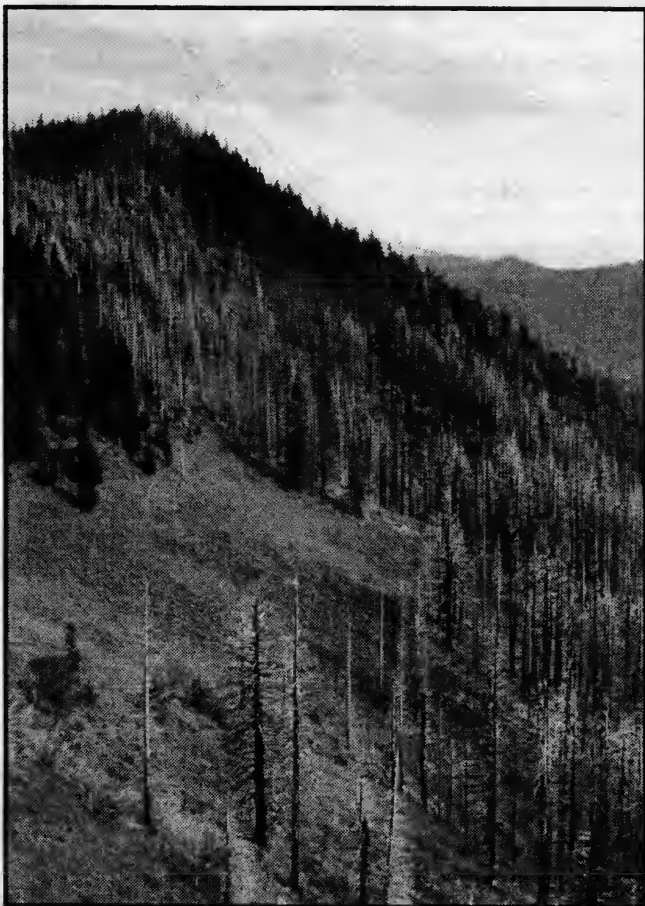
What Can You Do?

Get hot and bothered about this arson salvage scam! Come out to Oregon. Cascadia Forest Defenders and Southern Willamette Earth First! continue to blockade the north side; defense of Warner South is in the planning stages, and footloose activists are in constant demand.

Write Clinton and demand he withdraw this throwback to the dark days of Reagan-Bush. Some people are including burnt matches and charcoal in their letters—it makes an eloquent statement. Write to Bill Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500.

Southern Willamette Earth First! can be reached at POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 343-7305, e-mail: swef@efn.org.

To receive more information about the Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project, write to POB 3563, Eugene, OR 97403; (541) 726-4738.



Overlooking Big Bunchgrass Meadow at Warner Creek

required 30 (they recently extended it), and... in short, they're giving us plenty to sue on.

In addition, the Forest Service still has not been able to start logging Warner Creek's north side. Those darned activ-

Corporations, Politicians and Pollution

BY JOHN OSBORN, M.D.

Follow the money: The corporate funding of political campaigns helps explain what Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) wants to do to the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene watershed.

The world's worst heavy-metal pollution is in the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene watersheds. Here is some of the nation's worst environmental damage. Clearcuts above heavy metals cause floods to surge across toxic landscapes—again and again. Each flood dumps nutrients and thousands of pounds of lead and other toxic metals into Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Spokane River carries the pollution from Idaho into Washington state.

Senator Craig's two remedies—his so-called "Forest Health" bill (S. 391) and his Coeur d'Alene heavy metals bill (S. 1614)—will only worsen the world-class environmental problem confronting these two states.

What must we do to restore the forests? Hundreds of miles of logging roads need to be ripped up and mountain slopes re-contoured. This could be a win-win for forests and forest-dependent communities, restoring forested watersheds while creating jobs for local workers. But the most important thing we can do is simply let the forest canopies—now clearcut—grow back. You cannot log these forests back to health.

Senator Larry Craig's remedy? Follow the money: Craig is one of Congress's leading recipients of timber industry PAC money. Last year, Senators Craig, Gorton, and others succeeded in enacting into law the so-called "Salvage Rider," which strips citizens of legal recourse to stop illegal timber sales.

Larry Craig—who for years pressed the Forest Service to cut more and more trees in Idaho—has succeeded in having the government re-issue illegal timber sales that citizens had earlier succeeded in shelving because of watershed damage. National Forests are falling. Corporate tyranny reigns.

Craig is moving to cement the "Salvage Rider into law with its sequel: Craig's "Forest Health" bill. On our water-

sheds, above the toxic wetlands, the overcutting will continue, the toxic floods will continue.

What must we do about the massive heavy metal pollution? Every delay in cleanup means more toxic metals move downstream into wetlands and into Lake Coeur d'Alene, where removal is environmentally dangerous and financially prohibitive. The sheer magnitude of the pollution and cleanup is reflected in projected cleanup costs. The Justice Department sued the mining companies in March, estimating damages and costs at \$600 million. Seattle-based Ridolfi Engineering, under contract with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, estimated cleanup costs at \$1 billion. The value of the minerals taken from the region is estimated at more than one trillion dollars.

Senator Craig, Congress's leading recipient of mining industry PAC money, recently unveiled his toxic metals bill for the Coeur d'Alene Watershed. Senator Craig's heavy metals bill:

- Transfers cleanup costs to taxpayers by effectively releasing mining companies from paying full clean-up costs.
- Abolishes the current Tribe-State-Federal government oversight, replacing it with a "commission" weighted heavily towards mining companies and controlled by Idaho's Governor in Boise.
- Does not appropriate money for the cleanup, deferring decisions to the unreliable, politicized, corporate-driven yearly budget process in Congress.

•Fails to address the connected problems of overcut forests, floods and the risk that heavy metals on the bottom of Lake Coeur d'Alene will be resuspended.

Follow the money: Congress and the President should take a hard look at the toxic, overcut and unraveling Spokane-Coeur d'Alene watershed as they scrutinize Craig's timber and pollution bills. Leadership is needed, not more pandering to corporate campaign contributors. The stakes are simply too high.

This article is reprinted from Transitions.

THE INDIAN CURTAIN: MYTHOLOGY AND THE MEDIA

BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

There is an Indian Curtain that exists among most of the environmental media, no different than the Iron Curtain that once silenced criticism of the old Soviet Union regime. There is an unwritten code or mythology that permeates the environmental movement that suppresses any critical examination of the behavior of Indigenous people with regards to environmental issues. (Let me confuse this mythology further by stating that I am part Indian myself as well as a mixture of other racial and ethnic groups.)

The article on the Yukon Government's wolf control by Mike Howell which appeared in the May 1, 1996, issue of the *EF! Journal* exemplifies the way the Indian Curtain often obfuscates the truth. Howell attempts to portray the Yukon Territory wolf control as merely a capitulation to the profit motives of a few outfitters. Certainly the outfitters support wolf control as a means of increasing game numbers. But what isn't stated in the article is that the local Aishihik "First Immigrant" Indians (I call all Indian people including my own ancestors First Immigrants since we are only the first to arrive in North America in a long line of people moving about the globe) support wolf control as well. They, like the outfitters, think that wolves are killing too many caribou, moose and other big game. And they are just as anxious to have the wolves destroyed to facilitate expansion of game numbers.

I can't believe that Howell does not know about the Aishihik people's views on wolf control. Rather, I think he ignored their support for wolf killing because it would confuse wolf supporters. Indians supporting wolf control doesn't fit our mythology about Indigenous people. But Indians are no different in their behavior than any other people. Indeed, it is racist to suggest otherwise.

I don't wish to pick on the Aishihik or Mike Howell, and if anyone deserves to be vilified it is the Yukon government. Nevertheless, it is duplicitous to ignore the culpability of the Indian people in the wolf control program or in any of many other environmentally destructive activities and practices condoned or supported by Indigenous or any other people. I think there is a tendency to do so because many people want to believe there was once a Garden of Eden and humans who lived in it did so without wrecking it.

There's a lot of rhetoric about Indians being the "first" environmentalists who "lived in harmony" with nature. While I may grant that at one time this was true for Indians to a degree—as it was for everyone when humanity as a whole hunted, fished and gathered for their living—such "harmony" was more likely a consequence of low population and limited technology than any particular cultural attributes. And even if it was due to a cultural perception of the world that is significantly different than what prevails today, culture is not static and almost no one alive is completely removed from today's dominant cultural values.

What people say means a lot less than what people do. Remember that George Bush was the self-proclaimed "environmental President," yet Bush's actions spoke differently.

The old adage "follow the money" if you want to predict behavior applies just as much to Indigenous people as anyone else. When people stand to benefit (and this may be in ways other than money, such as greater prestige or power) from some development, see how they act. For example, although not commonly acknowledged in the environmental media most of the Eskimos living along the coast of Alaska support oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, as does the Alaskan Brotherhood of Native People. The only organized opposition to drilling among native people in Alaska comes from a few hundred Athabascan people living south of the Brooks Range in Arctic Village.

The difference is easily explained by who benefits from oil development. The Eskimos of the North Slope Borough own the subsurface rights to the oil rich lands, while many of the other native people in the state own stock in oil companies and other Alaskan industries that will benefit financially from

oil development. All these people will profit handsomely from oil development. The people of Arctic Village, on the other hand, aren't getting a big cut of the oil money. And there's a real chance that oil development may impact migratory caribou herds which they still depend on. Naturally, they oppose the drilling.

Given the general level of poverty that characterizes most Alaskan natives, one can understand why oil dollars are attractive. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean the environmental media should continue the myths perpetuated by white Europeans (and now largely adopted as "truth" by many Indian and Eskimo people) who want to believe that the current dominant culture and the industrial paradigm are somehow an aberration instead of, as I believe, a more complex outgrowth of normal human behavior that everyone shares.

If one looks into environmental issues themselves and avoids the "filtered" perspective one often gets from the media, one finds that Indigenous people are just as willing to kill off predators, graze livestock, cut trees, drill for oil and in general trash the environment as anyone else if they stand to benefit

financially from this exploitation. Nevertheless, what we (humankind) say and what we do are often in direct opposition. In nearly every example where the profits from land exploitation go directly to Indigenous people, they are quite willing to put personal profit first, and environmental protection second. In this they are not much different than the rest of humanity because under our cultural clothes, we are all basically the same human animal.

Acting under the supposition that somehow Indigenous people are genetically or even culturally different and that we are all products of our culture and race is a kind of "cultural determinism" no less pernicious than the old notions that people once held that certain races of cultural groups were by "nature" lazy or stupid. Such a view of cultural determinism doesn't leave much hope for the vast majority of humanity that were born into the industrialized first world cultures or who lack the proper genetic and racial background for earth-friendly behavior. It also imposes a tremendous cultural oppression upon Indigenous people who must attempt to reconcile their own inconsistencies in the way they behave with the behavior that is expected of them.

We must recognize that culture is dynamic and that all humans have the capacity to act and live in a manner that is detrimental to the land, but can also learn to develop a more egalitarian and caring attitude towards the Earth, other life and other people as well. But this can only be nurtured if we accord all people the same basic rights, responsibilities and opportunities, and this is where our efforts should be directed. If we are going to offer creative alternatives and options so people won't (and better yet don't have to) kill wolves, cut old growth, drill for oil in sensitive locations—whatever—then we first have to acknowledge that all people can and will exploit the land if there are strong financial incentives to do so. And we need to make all people equally accountable for their actions and decisions.



MOUNT GRAHAM INJUNCTION LIFTED Clinton and Congress give the go-ahead for telescope

BY DURANGO COLBY

The battle to save Mount Graham has raged for over ten years. Native Americans and environmentalists have fought one illegal move after another by the University of Arizona (UofA), the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Vatican, the Max Planck Institute, and our beloved Congress. These foul entities wish to construct telescopes on top of Mount Graham—known by the Apache as Dził Nchaa Si'an—and in the process destroy and fragment the last refuge of the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel.

Telescope backers have met one of the most well-organized and diverse coalitions ever to oppose any project. Nearly all Southwestern environmental groups have stated opposition, and many Native American groups and religious organizations are opposed. The coalition filed lawsuit after lawsuit losing all of them until finally prevailing in July, 1994. A Federal District judge finally ordered the UofA to comply with the law and do an Environmental Impact Statement. But did they? No. Instead, they went back to the good ol' boys club (you know the place, it's in DC) and got another exemption for their eco-destruction.

Yep, that's right. James Kolbe, Congressman from Arizona, decided that his branch of the government is more important than the judicial branch, and attached a rider to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill that exempted the Columbus Telescope from all environmental and religious freedom laws. President Clinton signed that bill into law in May.

Waving their rider, the UofA went to the courts and asked to have that pesky little injunction lifted. So, back to court we went. The judge wanted to hear oral arguments. Well, we told him what we thought. The UofA did nothing to comply with his court order over the last two years. We told him how we didn't think it was appropriate for Congress to override his court order. We told him about the recent fire on Mount Graham and how it destroyed a lot of critical habitat. He didn't seem to care. He said that Congress has the right to make any law it wants.

On May 31, the judge lifted the injunction halting the construction of the Columbus Telescope. Environmentalists have appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court, and have filed a new lawsuit, but construction appears to be imminent. To get involved, contact SEAC-SW at POB 1891, Tucson, AZ 85702-1891; (520) 322-9819.

COMMUNICATING ACROSS CULTURES

BY STEVE NEWCOMB

Communicating across cultures can be as difficult as it is rewarding. This is certainly true when it comes to encounters between Native and non-Native people working in the environmental movement. I know there are many non-Native people who do a great job working and communicating with Native people on important environmental issues. But I also have received phone calls from people seeking guidance about how to deal with young, white activists who, although admirably passionate in their desire to save the forests, were completely incapable and downright arrogant when it came to the subtle kinds of perception and openness that were needed in order to listen to and effectively communicate with traditional Native people.

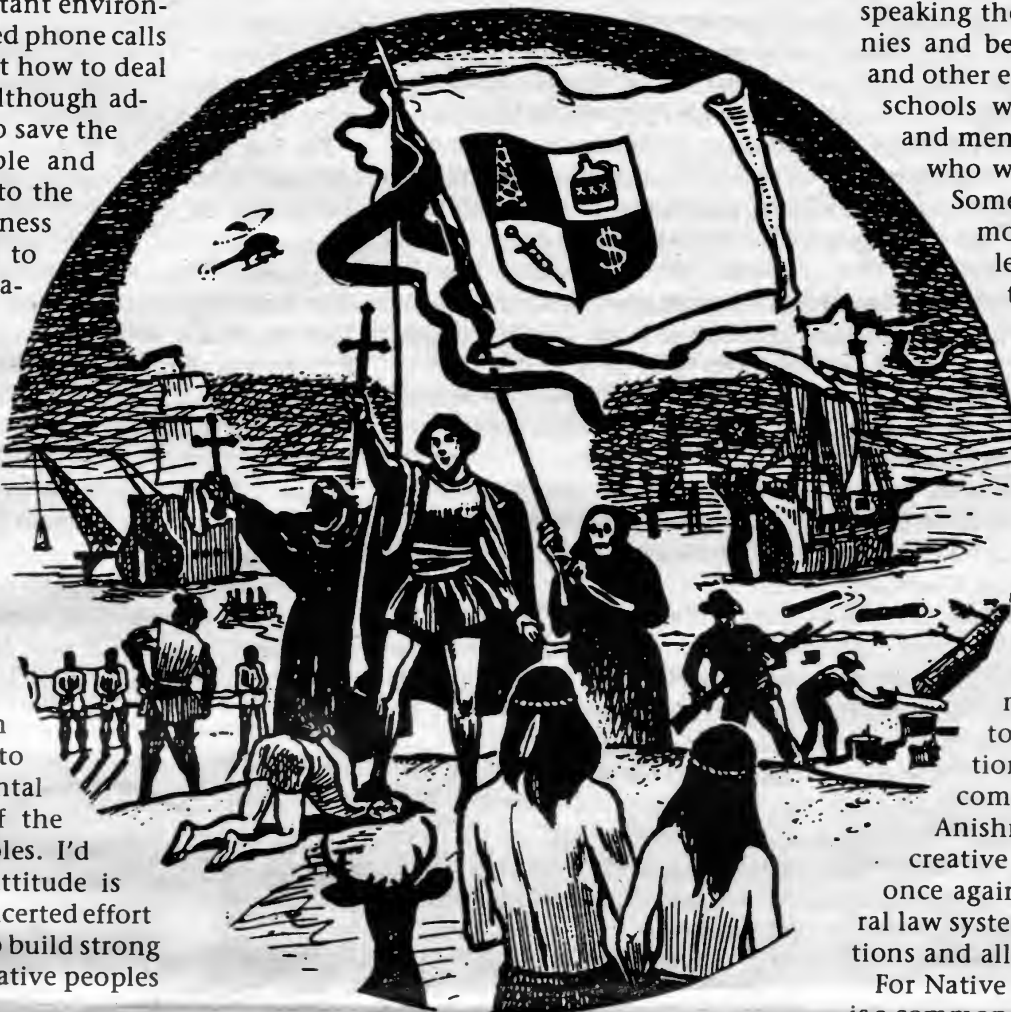
Unfortunately, many non-Native environmentalists do not seem to consider it important that Native nations and peoples have been engaged for centuries in an ongoing political, environmental, and economic struggle for their very survival. Some of these same environmental activists do not seem to believe that there is anything of real value to be learned from traditional Native cultures when it comes to dealing with environmental issues. They seem to think that there are no fundamental differences between the people of the dominant society and Native peoples. I'd like to explain why I think this attitude is wrongheaded, and call for a more concerted effort on the part of non-Native activists to build strong alliances between themselves and Native peoples around environmental concerns.

When early Christian Europeans traveled for the first time across Native lands in North America, they did not find the ecosystem devastated by destructive Native cultural land practices. Although the descriptions varied in the desert regions, the conquistadors, explorers, chroniclers, surveyors and missionaries described the vast majority of the lands they were visiting from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific as virtual "Eden"s. Typical of this assessment of the terrain was the comment made by Rev. Jedidiah Morse regarding the lands of my own Shawnee and Lenape ancestors in the Ohio River valley: "This country may, from a proper knowledge, be affirmed to be the most healthy, the most pleasant, the most commodious, and the most fertile spot of earth, known to the European people."

It was not by mere happenstance that our Native lands were so beautiful and pristine, with pure water and rich dark soil, and millions of acres of verdant old-growth forests that have since been destroyed. Indian nations and peoples had, over a period of thousands of years, understood themselves to be an integral part of the processes and web of life. They understood, based on origin stories and other teachings as well as through deep spiritual discernment, that life consists of and is sustained by certain natural laws. Elders, philosophers and spiritual ancestors constantly reminded the people to harmonize themselves ceremonially and otherwise with those natural laws. Because life is naturally self-renewing and self-fulfilling, it is able to provide for the people as long as the people uphold the natural laws. Even now, many traditional Native people continue to understand and endeavor to live according to these laws. To a great extent, however, this is made virtually impossible now that these natural laws have been "outlawed" by the dominating society.

Today, we as Native nations and peoples live on a daily basis with a 500-year legacy of genocide, colonialism, domination and the ecological and environmental destruction of our previous worlds.

Those worlds had been constructed and maintained for thousands of years. Collectively throughout the western hemisphere, we lost some 96 million people to murder, disease and through the rape of our traditional lands. With an estimated one out of ten people remaining alive after the initial stage of the holocaust had ended, and our traditional economies destroyed, things rap-



idly spun out of balance. Even some of our own people began to forget about the discernment of our natural, spiritual laws. Many sought solace in the teachings of a religion that has, as a first principle, "subdue the earth and exercise dominion over all living things."

Even now, our holocaust has not ended. The war against our Indigenous communities rages on, cloaked behind media white outs and various kinds of skillfully created camouflage. Entire Indian peoples are being killed off (one entire people per year in the Amazon since 1900) and over 270 of our peoples have been notified of our expected extinction dates based on the studies of those scholars who diligently make it their business to track such matters. Meanwhile, the multinational corporations that, together with missionaries and governments, are complicit in our demise, grow fatter and more brazen.

We've had empires erected on top of us and our traditional territories without our free consent. We've not been allowed to maintain our traditional lifestyles, nor even to protect and hold on to the human skeletal remains of our ancestors. Some of us were the victims of a United States eugenics program, which proceeded Hitler's eugenics project. We have been knowingly used by the United States federal government as nuclear guinea pigs and had our once pristine rivers, aquifers and other waterways—the veins of our Mother Earth—poisoned with radioactivity and other unspeakable chemical pollutants, in violation of our own traditional systems of law. Women's breast milk, which is sacred, now contains these toxins. Our fisheries have also been poisoned and destroyed. And we've had the most powerful empire on the planet use its most powerful and diabolical techniques on us in an effort to keep us weak and divided. Our great Shawnee leader Tecumseh could talk non-stop for hours recounting the violations of the United

States, and that was in the early 1800s, so you can imagine how long it would take now to recount to you all that Indigenous nations and peoples we have been through, throughout the entire Western Hemisphere.

As with all people, there is incredible diversity between and within our Native communities. Some Native people were raised traditionally, speaking their own language, attending ceremonies and being educated by their grandparents and other elders. Some were sent off to boarding schools where they suffered sexual, physical and mental abuse inflicted on them by those who were responsible for their well being.

Some were adopted into non-Native Mormon or Christian families where they learned very little, if anything, of their traditional wisdom and ceremonial practices. And some experienced several of those settings during the time they were growing up.

Given these and many other contributing factors, is it any wonder that there is a lot of diversity today in terms of "Native" attitudes and behavior when it comes to land use policies? And yet despite all these and many more historic impacts on Native communities, our elders and our traditional people, and, yes, even many tribal council officials do desire to restore a way of life based on traditional laws and values. In many Native communities—Lil' wat, Zuni, Lakota, Anishnabe, Haudenosaunee, etc.—through creative projects, Native communities are once again bringing forward traditional natural law systems for the sake of the future generations and all living things.

For Native and non-Native activists alike there is a common ground that we all share, and that is, quite literally, the Earth beneath our feet. But, in my view, there are three things that any non-Native environmentalist could use when it comes to how they perceive, think about and judge Native people: compassion, humility, and a detailed historical understanding of what Native nations and peoples have been through and are continuing to go through at this time. It is my strong hope that non-Native environmentalists will support traditional Native people in their efforts to bring forward their own traditional laws. As they do so, perhaps those who don't know will begin to realize how much it is possible for the dominant society to learn from Indigenous ecological wisdom which has been accumulated over thousands of years.

Finally, I'd like to suggest that there is a definite need for compassion toward Indigenous peoples who are themselves very much endangered by the eco-terrorism of the dominant society. What we need now more than ever between Native and non-Native people are open lines of communication and strong environmental alliances as we enter the twenty-first century.

Steve Newcomb is Director of the Indigenous Law Institute based in Eugene, OR.

CATFISH CAUSES HAVOC

A barbed beast 10 feet long and with a head more than three feet wide has reportedly been terrorizing man and even man's best friend in the river Endau in Johore, Malaysia.

The voracious catfish was recently seen attacking two dogs that wandered into the water.

The monster catfish reportedly has poisonous spines that paralyze those stuck by them.

Scientists say the fish is probably a *Bagarius* *Bagarius*, which goes by the Punjab name "goonch."

—LOS ANGELES TIMES

VERMONT HARDWOODS HEADED FOR CHIPVILLE

In a series of recent timber sale proposals, the Forest Service announced plans to log over 800 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest (NF) in Vermont. Two hundred and sixty four acres will be logged using clearcutting and its variants. A total of over 4.5 million board feet of timber will be removed from the Green Mountain NF with these five sales.

The Chandler Ridge and South Lincoln timber sales, which call for two-stage clearcutting of 86 acres of rare oak stands, have drawn particular public opposition. Environmental Assessments for the five timber sales total over 191 pages of text, charts and maps. Forest Service regulations require comments from the public no later than 30 days after an Environmental Assessment is issued.

"The Forest Service gives lip service by saying they want public input, but in practice they are making it impossible for the public to be involved in the management of their forests," said Mathew Jacobson, Executive Director of Green Mountain Forest Watch. "Swamping the public with nearly 200 pages of documentation for five separate logging operations and telling them that they have only 30 days to comment demonstrates that the Forest Service is more interested in steamrolling the public with the Forest Service's logging agenda than meaningfully considering public input."

The timber sales follow a restructuring of the Forest Service in Vermont in the wake of a recent court decision which declared Forest Service plans to log in the Lamb Creek roadless area of the Green Mountain NF illegal. A new forest supervisor, planner, and district ranger have been appointed.

According to Green Mountain Forest Watch, these logging proposals violate the Forest Plan for the Green Mountain NF. Unlike the West, where there are vast public holdings of forestland, the Green Mountain NF makes up only five percent of the state of Vermont. The Forest Plan states:

We believe that public land in New England is scarce and precious. Our management philosophy reflects that belief. The Green Mountain National Forest should be managed to provide benefits that private land does not... With its large blocks of land in remote areas, the Green Mountain National Forest is particularly well suited to providing opportunities for back country recreation and Wilderness.

The plan further states that while "Private lands should easily be able to meet society's demand for wood products... private lands are less well suited to meet demands for recreation and wildlife benefits."

Green Mountain Forest Watch is asking the Forest Service to extend the public comment period for all five sales by 60 days to allow enough time for the public to consider these proposals and provide meaningful input. Letters should be received before August 1, 1996.

Send letters or inquiries to District Ranger Barthelme at Green Mountain National Forest, 231 N. Main St., Rutland, VT, 05701-2417; (802) 747-6700.

For more information, contact Green Mountain Forest Watch at 48 Elliot St., Brattleboro, VT, 05301; (802) 257-4878; e-mail: grnmt@eworld.com.

Yellow-legged Frog on Brink of Extinction

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation of Boulder, Colorado, and two individual California biologists filed suit on May 23, 1996 in the District of Columbia in order to force the Fish and Wildlife Service into responding to the emergency facing the southern California mountain yellow-legged frog.

With less than 100 adult frogs remaining in eight small populations in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests in southern California, the mountain yellow-legged frog is in imminent danger of extinction.

The suit, which names as defendants both Bruce Babbitt, the Secretary of the Interior, and Mollie Beattie, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), seeks to force the agency into acting on a December 21, 1995, emergency petition to list the mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered. FWS has ignored both the emergency petition and the original July 10, 1995, petition to list this frog as endangered.

"The Service is not only violating the clear Congressional directive to respond to petitions—and in particular emergency petitions—in a timely manner, it is violating its own most recent policy pronouncement, which states that emergency listings are the Service's number one priority," said Jasper Carlton, Director of the Biodiversity Legal Foundation.

For more information, contact the Biodiversity Legal Foundation at (303) 442-3037.

Virginians Stop Highway!

Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), citing opposition from environmental groups and the US Forest Service, is backing off its plan to reroute and widen US 58 through the middle of the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (MRNRA) in southwest Virginia.

During a CTB work session held on May 8, the Virginia Department of Transportation acknowledged that the "probability of eventually obtaining approvals to construct along this corridor are extremely unlikely." In 1992, a previous board approved Alternative 2A, a four-lane super highway that would have bisected the 154,000 acres of the MRNRA destroying the popular Hurricane campground and following a mile of the Appalachian Trail.

The Virginia Department of Transportation stated that after selecting Alternative 2A, "we began to receive notices of organized and wide spread opposition to the decision."

For four years, the Mountain Heritage Alliance coordinated local, regional and national efforts to overturn the CTB decision to construct a four-lane US 58 through the MRNRA. The Southern Environmental Law Center assisted and represented Mountain Heritage Alliance on this matter. These efforts along with the assistance of activists nationwide have apparently paid off. The Forest Service received more than 1000 responses, with only 11 respondents in favor of Alternative 2A. This overwhelming opposition to the project has been essential in changing the Department of Transportation's plan.

The Virginia Department of Transportation will instead focus on safety improvements to existing two-lane roads such as state Route 16 and US 58 through the MRNRA. Law Center Staff Attorney Kay Slaughter said, "The Virginia Department of Transportation is taking a sensible and reasonable approach not to waste scarce funds on an environmentally destructive and costly road."

For more information, contact Mark Borker at by The Mountain Heritage Alliance, POB 361, Marion, VA, 24354; (540) 342-5580, or Tom Davenport at (540) 475-5054.



"OUTER BELTWAY" THREATENS TREES OLDER THAN AMERICA

A tulip poplar 18 feet in circumference in the Rock Creek Watershed and a twelve-foot-circumference pin oak in Northwest Branch Park, Maryland, lie directly in the path of the proposed Inter County Connector (ICC), an 18-mile, billion dollar "Outer Beltway" (also known as I-370) from Gaithersburg to Laurel, Maryland.

The ICC would fragment the most pristine forest lands left in Montgomery County which include many trees that predate the Civil War, when most of the woods in the DC area were clearcut. A few trees, like this oak, are likely more than 200 years old. The ICC's route would blast through Rock Creek Regional Park, Northwest Branch Park and the Paint Branch watershed (the latter still has naturally reproducing brown trout, an indicator of healthy water quality).

The Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers have opposed this highway for many years due to its outrageous environmental destruction. The State of Maryland and the governments of Montgomery and Prince George County's hope to build the ICC to appease corporate interests and avoid the tough choices about land use policies and reducing automobile dependency.

Due to its pristine characteristics, the ICC route should be protected as wild land to preserve scarce habitat and interconnecting green-ways and to provide educational opportunities found in native ecosystems that are rapidly disappearing as DC suburbs grow.

This region's extreme traffic congestion—the second worst in the US after Los Angeles—won't be solved by more roads and sprawl. For more information on how to get involved, contact Mark Robinowitz at Anacostia/Rock Creek EFL, POB 5625, Takoma Park, MD 20913; (301) 270-0857.

5

A battle is being waged in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado by an alliance of tie-died eco-defenders, Catholic nuns and Chicano farmers. At stake is the 77,524 acre Culebra Mountain tract, traditionally known as La Sierra. It is here that one man's effort to assert his "property rights" is destroying roadless old growth, endangered species habitat, a watershed, and consequently the livelihoods of 300 Chicano farm families who depend on the annual snow melt to fill their acequias (irrigation ditches).

tain. However, when the US stole this land from Mexico, the new overlords recognized the legitimacy only of the farmers' claims to the lowlands. Thus, the people were denied legal claim to the source of their water. Nevertheless, the mountain continued to be utilized as a community commons until the 1960s.

Most recently, Jack Taylor's son, Zachary, has contracted with Stone Container Forestry to log La Sierra. The specifics of the contract are a closely held secret and county officials have been denied access to the land to ob-

serve the logging. However, based on comments by Mr. Taylor, it is estimated that the contract is for approximately 32 million board feet. Officials who flew over the site estimate that some 5-8,000 acres have been clearcut. Taylor has described this activity as "watershed improvement."

The people of San Luis farm their small plots of land as their ancestors did, without chemicals. They plant corn and beans that have adapted to this high desert. They recognize the interdependence of all life. They have a lot to teach others about sustainable living. However, their livelihoods and their examples will be lost if we don't stop the logging.

On June 10, members of the Salva tú Sierra Coalition marched to the gate of Taylor ranch and

presented a statement of grievances and demands which included a halt to logging, complete watershed restoration, public review of the logging to date, and good faith negotiation between Taylor and the farmers.

Call me cynical, but history tells me that Mr. Taylor will need more than this statement to be moved to a just solution. The people of San Luis want our help. For more information on how you can get involved in the struggle to save the San Luis Watershed, contact Devon Peña at (719) 672-3355 or Kirsten Atkins at (970) 641-7128.

BY LYNN HAMILTON

There are sea turtles and fresh water turtles, and then there are diamondback terrapins: the evolutionary link between the two. Diamondback terrapins live in marshes and brackish areas of North America's east coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the brighter moments in the moral evolution of the human species was when we quit hunting and eating sea turtles. People have pretty much lost their taste for a diamondback terrapin snack.

One of our bleaker moments was when recent studies revealed that 80 percent of drivers will deliberately swerve out of their way to run over a snake or turtle. The diamondback terrapins of coastal Georgia have been holding their own and even slowly increasing their numbers, despite the fact that Highway 80 was built only a few feet from the beach where they lay their eggs.

Local scientists are not so sure, though, that the population will survive the increase in traffic when the Olympics come to town. Though most Olympic events will center around Atlanta, Georgia's narrow coastline will be the site of the sailing competitions. Overnight development and crowding threaten the fragile marine ecosystem, including the diamondbacks.

Georgia's coastal fauna is constantly at the mercy of big industry accidents. If, for instance, there's a spill from Kemira, the bleach manufacturer, or from the various turpentine and paper mills lining the shore, everybody's in trouble.

Activists looking for some small but really effective thing to do for animals today can call the Georgia State Police at (912) 651-3000 and the Tybee Island Police at (912) 786-5600. Ask them politely to deploy their enormous force to protect terrapins on Highway 80 just west of Tybee Island. Gently remind them that under cruelty to animals laws, they may arrest to their hearts' content anyone who deliberately swerves into another lane to hit an animal.

Furthermore, anyone who swerves off the road or onto the double yellow line to hit an animal can and *should* be arrested for reckless driving. Ask them to make terrapin protection a priority during the Olympic events. If they ask why you are calling from so far away, tell them the Carolina diamondback is cherished around the world. Act surprised that they didn't know that. Whether you add that the diamondback terrapin is more important to you than god, country or any gold medalist, I leave up to you.

BY ANDREW BAMSA GEORGE

As the chip mills sharpen their teeth for the Southeast, communities throughout the southern Appalachians are preparing for the battle of their lives.

The efforts of corporations like Willamette Industries to penetrate and pillage the recovering highland forests of the southern Appalachians—like they did with over 30 chip and pulp mills spread over the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and associated rivers in Alabama and Mississippi—are abhorrent.

A community of concerned citizens are outraged by the proposal to build a chip mill in a quiet place in North Carolina called Union Mills. The Willamette mill would be the first in the southern Appalachians. Environmentalists recognize how this community's reaction will serve as a proto-

type for other towns in the region and are banding together to make Willamette's trip south an utter failure.

The citizens of Union Mills and other people throughout the southern Appalachians extend to you a personal invitation to a rally to save Union Mills and stop Willamette dead in its tracks. The gathering will take place on Saturday, July 20, from 12pm to 6pm. There will be music, free food and dynamic speakers. The rally will be held in Union Mills at a location to be announced.

If the rally doesn't stop Willamette, many dedicated citizens and neighbors of Union Mills are willing to do whatever is necessary to hold on to their lives, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

This is not the typical southern Appalachian reaction. Life in this sleepy community in the foothills of the Blue Ridge

usually revolves around church, family and a strong work ethic. But with Willamette circling overhead, folks like Union Mills resident Mitch Mulkey are considering less traditional alternatives following the rally.

"If Willamette comes in here, we'll wind up being a third world colony and the common man will have to do without his biodiversity and peace of mind. Basically, I'm not a civil disobedient person," Mulkey said. "But if I have anything to do with it, I aim for there to be some trees left for our kids."

For more information, call Andrew Bamsa George at (910) 877-1551.

"You can't stand in the way of progress."

"Progress is good."

"If it weren't for progress, why we'd still be livin' in caves."

All of the above statements are often used by industrialists, politicians and others to justify turning a blind eye toward the environment.

Strangely enough, for once the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) agrees with them. That's because since the beginning of 1996, the AWA has enjoyed an unprecedented three consecutive victories in row.

This winning streak started on the afternoon of January 11, 1996, with the establishment of the 792-square kilometer Wildland Park in the Elbow-Sheep Wilderness. Next came the announcement on January 17, 1996, of the creation of the Kakwa Wildland Park in Northern Alberta on the BC border. Then came the news that the Alberta Energy & Utilities Board had issued an interim directive that would protect an internationally significant wetland in the Hay-Zama Lakes Area of northwestern Alberta.

All of these success stories have at least one thing in common: the involvement of a strong grassroots movement that was unflappable in its determination to influence government, industry and community leaders to change policies and begin protecting wild areas. The key is not to let anything impinge on the progress that has been made. There are thousands of hectares of fragile wilderness yet to be protected!

Get involved with the Alberta Wilderness Association. The aforementioned successes were the result of volunteers, which are the heart and soul of the AWA. We are perpetually looking for talents ranging from writing to being a wilderness watchdog.

If you're interested in getting involved in a worthwhile "work in progress," you can write letters, make phone calls, recruit members and promote a conservation concern.

Contact AWA for more details at Alberta Wilderness Association, POB 6398, Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 2E1, Canada; (403) 283-2025.



Cove/Mallard Action Coming to a Head

BY THE MOSCOW OFFICE COLLECTIVE

Since 1992, Earth First! activists, Seeds of Peace and many others have been resisting the destruction of Cove/Mallard. As we go into our fifth year on the front lines, things are ready to come to a head. 1996 just might be the year we shut them down.

For those who haven't been reading this rag faithfully for five years, here is some background information. Central Idaho is dominated by the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the largest intact wildlands complex in the lower 48 states.

The Cove and Mallard roadless areas fill a notch between the Selway-Bitterroot, River of No Return, and Gospel Hump designated Wilderness Areas. Cove and Mallard serve as biological corridor, linking segmented wilder-

ness together. Such corridors are crucial to the survival of many species.

The Forest Service has proposed a series of sales which would build a network of 145 miles of roads and cut 81 million board feet of timber, enough to fill 26,000 logging trucks. Citizens have opposed these sales by administrative and judicial means since they were first proposed in 1980. In 1992, however, those working within the system came to the end of their rope. The chainsaws were fired up, the feller-bunchers approached and the timber beast moved in.

The Cove/Mallard resistance began when Wild Rockies Earth First! hung a banner from the roof of the Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office in Grangeville, Idaho. Since that day in 1992, activists have been putting their bodies on the line to halt the destruction. Hundreds have been arrested, serving nearly 1,000 days in jail.

Sometimes, from on the ground, it's hard to see that we're winning. But we are. The Cove/Mallard timber sales were projected to take six years. Going into the fifth year of the project, they've completed 25 of the proposed 145 miles of road, cut 12 of the proposed 200 units, and extracted five million of the proposed 81 million board feet of timber. At this rate, it's turning into a 25-year project. The Forest Service can't hold out anywhere near that long.

Cove and Mallard are vital to the biological integrity of the Greater Salmon-Selway. But more than that, it's become a test of whether or not the Forest Service can log roadless areas in the Wild Rockies. If we can hold out, if we can keep resisting, if we can provide such a powerful opposition that the Forest Service throws up its hands and walks away in disgust, they probably won't try anything like this again. If we win here, we protect all

the roadless areas in the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, and help defend all of the roadless areas in the Wild Rockies.

Unfortunately, there's a big obstacle in our way this year. The old Forest Supervisor, Mike King, got canned (the agency calls it "transferred") last year. He's been replaced by Coy Jemmett, a timber pimp who's been brought in specifically to get the cut out.

It is rumored that Jemmett justifies increasing the cut by telling employees how much worse it would be if the state of Idaho got management control of the Nez Perce National Forest. The Idaho Legislature passed a law encouraging this pipe-dream last session, but there is little chance that even the Republican Congress would go along with such a proposal. It's not much of a choice anyway—kind of like the difference between Hitler and Stalin.

The new Supervisor also has a reputation for silencing internal dissent (read: biologists with legitimate concerns) through transfers and other activities. If you don't help get the cut out, you're gone.

Of course, we've got a thing or two in our favor this year. To start with, we're going to have the numbers for some truly incredible direct action. People are coming from around the world to join the Cove/Mallard resistance. And, of course, with the Round River Rendezvous coming our way (see last issue's blank wall), our numbers will swell until we have an army

of wierdos and freaks ready to take on the Forest Service, the chainsaws and the dozers.

With all these people coming our way, we're calling for Wild Rockies Summer. Our Roadless Rescue Tour will visit some of the most vicious salvage sales in the Wild Rockies, including the Boise Salvage Sale (at 275 million board feet, this is the largest sale in the history of the Forest Service).

Actions will take place throughout the bioregion, whether it's civil disobedience in the public spotlight, or small

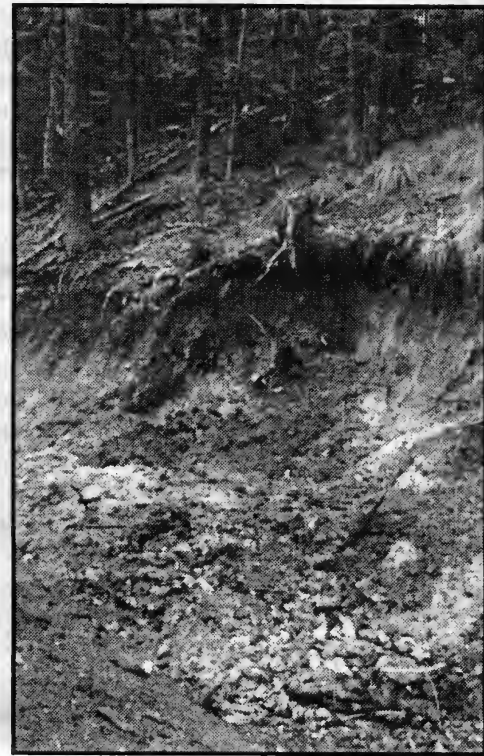
bands with a slightly different agenda. The Fredies will be spread pretty thin.

We're playing from a position of strength this year. Our numbers will be at an all-time high. Our opponents are still licking their wounds from the budget battles. The Fredies may be strong on the roads, but we own the wilderness and we're ready to go wild.

So come on out to Idaho and help us shut the timber beast down. We need

you and your affinity group, your friends and family too. Be prepared for action and adventure, be prepared for lots of good times, and be prepared for resistance. Come help us out. Remember, only you can stop forest rapers.

For more information, contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition at POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755, fax (208) 883-0727; e-mail: cove@moscow.com.



A slump on Jack Road at Cove/Mallard

photo by Natalie Shapiro

Cove/Mallard Needs You!

If you can't make it to Idaho this summer, here are some things you can do to help support the Cove/Mallard campaign:

- send us donations of money, gear, warm clothing, bulk food and backcountry food;
- conduct outreach in your community (call us for flyers and fact sheets);
- hold a fundraiser in your local community;
- tell all your friends to come to Idaho;
- go out and defend a piece of land close to your home;
- hold a solidarity action in your area on August 16, Wild Rockies International Day of Action.

Wilderness Warriors Wanted

BY SISKIYOU FOREST DEFENDERS

The China Left Timber Sale lies in the headwaters of the Left Fork of Sucker Creek, in the Siskiyou National Forest. This area is part of a late successional reserve and a key watershed under the President's Northwest Forest Plan. The Left Fork of Sucker Creek is some of the last healthy salmon habitat in the Siskiyou.

The ecological importance of these last remaining islands of biodiversity in the Kangaroo Roadless Area cannot be overemphasized; the future health of the entire Siskiyou Bioregion is dependent on the continued existence of these critical watersheds and wildlife corridors.

China Left is a group of 16 large patches of pristine old growth in an otherwise butchered and fragmented ecosystem. This Section 318 sale was sold as part of the notorious Hatfield rider of 1989 which exempted many of the Northwest's worst timber sales from environmental law: the first big logging-without-laws rider.

But it isn't just the fact that China Left is a significant wildlife corridor between the Red Buttes Wilderness and the Siskiyou Wilderness that makes this sale so atrocious; the ancient trees themselves are an endangered species in the over-logged Pacific Northwest. The China Left sale encompasses 530 acres of steep, rocky terrain and will remove 12.7 million board feet of wood, most of which will be from clearcuts.

This sale, if completed, will trash an ecosystem which is already struggling to survive and heal from years of human abuse. It will also add further stress to the rapidly declining salmon population for years to come.

China Left means mud slides and scorched Earth. China Left means another timber beast getting rich at the expense of future generations. China Left means extinction. *China Left must be stopped!*

Rough And Ready Lumber has already logged four units. They will be moving on to the remaining areas imminently. All but one of these units are clearcuts.

Time is running out for China Left and strong action must be taken immediately if we are to save these precious cathedrals of life.

We need warriors against lawless logging, NOT witnesses! Anyone with a strong desire to come to southern Oregon and fight for these ancient trees should contact Siskiyou Forest Defenders at (541) 732-3101. We need all the help we can get!

Protesting Corporate Dominance



photo by Karen Pickett

This banner was hung by Earth First! at a Shell Oil facility in San Francisco on May 20. The occasion was a protest against Shell, part of the Campaign to End Corporate Dominance, and was attended by Communities For A Better Environment; Equal Justice; Food Not Bombs; Greenpeace; the Nigerian Conscience Party; the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union; Rainforest Action Network; and the Sierra Club. Local Earth First!ers produced a report on Shell outlining their crimes and criticizing their activities in Nigeria, the North Sea and their Bay Area refinery in Martinez. Hundreds of flyers were passed out to commuters, a skit, "Attack of the Killer Shell," was performed, and Shell did not do too much business that morning. For a copy of our report on Shell, send \$1 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to EFi, POB 83, Canyon, CA 94516.

Gila Arson Investigation Sham

BY TODD SCHULKE

The burning issue in the Gila these days is arson and the hot topic of discussion is the Gila National Forest's (GNF) involvement in setting fires.

There are currently two separate ongoing investigations in the Gila concerning arson-for-profit. The Southwest Center for Biological Diversity (SWCBD) called for an investigation of the HB Fire of 1995 and in the process discovered an ongoing investigation of GNF employee involvement in arson fires.

On July 27, 1995 (the same day the Salvage Rider was adopted), a suspicious human-caused fire was started in the Eagle Peak Roadless Area. This area has been the focus of blazing controversy for years. It is arguably the most important large, unprotected roadless area left in the Southwest, containing a large stand of ancient forest of the size no longer found outside of designated wilderness.

Last fall, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) admitted in an interview that the GNF had disclosed that the HB Fire was arson-caused. Southwest Center for Biological Diversity finally obtained a copy of the fire investigation report several months later. After discovering the document to be worthless even as fire starter, we demanded that the Inspector General's Office look into the bogus report as well as probable interference in the fire fighting effort by the GNF in an attempt to facilitate salvage logging plans.

The Inspector General (IG) has instigated an investigation, putting an ex-firefighter on the job hoping that his experience will help uncover any shady activity. While snooping around for evidence on this specific arson case, the SWCBD discovered that the IG had been investigating the GNF for several months for arson fires ignited by Forest Service (FS) employees.

The details are shrouded in smoke but we know that the GNF is shaken up over the conflagration. When asked for information, GNF Supervisor Abel Camarena (infamous for his part in pushing the Sugarloaf sale) denied the *Albuquerque Journal* any information, claiming that it was only a personnel issue. An anonymous FS source said that other than arson-for-profit (salvage logging after a fire provides increased revenue) FS employees light fires "out of rage against the government or... pyromania." Huh?

The *Albuquerque Journal* apparently got a little hot under the collar about the evasive answers, running the story as the lead headline and following it with a flaming editorial stating that the incidents should be investigated by the FBI or maybe even Congress. They went on to say that the "official silence" over the arson investigations lent credence to environmentalists' claims that the Forest Service panders to commercial interests.

There have been several actions in the last few months protesting the HB Sale and salvage logging in general. We've had great turnout which bodes well for the future of direct action if it's needed.

Simultaneous actions took place in Albuquerque and Tucson on April 22. Over 20 people came together for the Tucson demo, protesting the Rustler Park Salvage Sale in the Chiricahuas as well as

the HB Sale. In Albuquerque, 50 people gathered at the Federal building. There was a re-enactment of the arson fire, complete with real live fire breathing. After the "trees" were burned a spotted owl flew the coop and a Freddie disguised as an arsonist lit a fat cigar made of dollar bills from the flames.

There were a lot of cops there, so for some reason we felt compelled to check if it would be Okay to burn some stuff. They shrugged and said it was fine with them as long as we didn't start any pedestrians on fire. We agreed.

The finale of the action was a real federal employee attempting to remove a "Salvage Logging Sucks" sticker from the building by scraping at it with her glossy fingernails. It took her a very long time (which was amusing enough), but the look on her face when someone went over and applied another just as she was finishing was enough to send us to the bar to recover.

In May, we had a gathering at the Eagle Peak Roadless Area. Fifty people from around the country turned out to show support and prepare for an eventual encampment.

The District Ranger showed up, encouraging us to hike the area to see all the problems he had to deal with following this "catastrophic" fire. We did that and hiked adjacent Buzzard Peak which burned 92 years ago. We didn't see any problems, only opportunities. The ensuing strategy session went well, leaving us in good shape for future direct action. We left a couple of folks up there to monitor the Forest Service for the rest of the summer.

After the gathering, about 25 of us made our way down to the Reserve Ranger Station for the first enviro demonstration ever in Catron County, NM. One of those present dubbed Abel Camarena "the Butcher of the Gila." Another activist serenaded timber beast Don Weaver (who has been planning the HB Sale for quite some time) with a beautiful song to the melody of the beloved 70's tune Dream Weaver.

The Ranger tried to video all of us potential base-campers, but he couldn't seem to get a good shot of anything but a "No Salvage Logging" sign. The future of this sale should prove interesting.

The Zuñi Pueblo strongly oppose the sale, and could effect its eventual outcome. Mexican spotted owls have returned to the area, challenging GNF statements that they wouldn't log the area if the birds returned. We are pursuing the purchase of the sale with the support of a number of Catron County residents,

proposing a restoration project that could replace local jobs lost by not logging. Local folks have been very receptive to alternatives to the salvage logging proposal. We are also developing a legal strategy that might offer a few surprises. Finally, the injunction against logging in the Southwest is still in effect and it covers salvage sales.

But we can't lose sight of the very real possibility for the need for direct action in the future. Obviously, Abel Camarena probably still has his sights set on hauling a lot of boards down off Eagle Peak. We've made it clear that the Eagle Peak Roadless Area is special to us. Our commitment to direct action in volatile Catron County demonstrates how important Eagle Peak is. Area residents seem to realize this but they are not the ones making the decisions. Time will tell how compelling our innovative alternatives and other efforts will be.

It is still valuable to write Abel Camarena of the GNF and Nancy Kaufman of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Camarena's address is Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM, 88061. He loves to get faxes at (505) 388-8204. Kaufman's address is Regional Director of Fish and Wildlife USFWS, 500 Gold St. SW, Albuquerque, NM, 87102. Give her a hard time about allowing changes to the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and ask nicely that USFWS withdraw support for the HB Salvage Sale.

There will be another gathering on Eagle Peak July 26-28 to observe the anniversary of the Salvage Rider and the arson fire at Eagle Peak. We'll know a lot more by then on the timing for potential direct action. If they cut this thing it will probably start sometime in August or early September. Keep in touch. You can contact us at Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, POB 102 Pinos Altos, NM 88053; (505) 388-8799; fax (505) 388-0666; e-mail: tschulke@sw-center.org.



Bella-Bella Base Camp Seeks Summer Support

You are invited to the mid coast of British Columbia during the summer of '96 to experience and participate in a campaign to save the Ingram-Mooto and Ellerslie Lake System from the chainsaws of Western Forest Products. The Ingram-Mooto and Ellerslie Lakes system is located in the traditional territory of the Heiltsuk and is surrounded by a complex of protected areas that include the Kitlope, Fjordlands Recreation Area and the proposed Princess Royal Island Spirit Bear Reserve.

The temperate rainforest carpeting the watersheds and shorelines of this lake system are of worldwide ecological significance. Some of BC's largest

Sitka spruce and western red cedar are found in this area. Associated with these ancient forests are wildlife species that have all but disappeared from temperate rainforests throughout much of North America. These species include the marbled murrelet, tailed frog, wolf, wolverine and grizzly bear. One would think that the scenic grandeur of glaciated valleys, cascading waterfalls and jungle-like forests would stand alone as a reason for protecting Ingram-Mooto and Ellerslie Lakes. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Western Forest Products is planning a massive logging operation for this area in 1997. Virtually every remain-

ing rainforest valley on the BC coast is committed to be clearcut.

The Vickers family of Bella Bella is inviting people to visit Ingram-Mooto and Ellerslie Lake as a way of sharing an interest in the future of this area. A regularly scheduled water shuttle service, beginning in June, 1996, will transport community members and visitors from Bella Bella to a wilderness camp at Ingram Lake.

The camp will offer workshops on First Nations' culture and history, wildlife ecology and traditional medicines. Informal surveys for species such as wolf, marbled murrelet and tailed frog will also be conducted. Additional activities may include trail building and

the construction of a ropes system for accessing the rainforest canopy. From the camp people can explore neighboring inlets and fjords, as well as Ingram, Mooto and Polallie Lakes.

The camp will also serve as a means for the Heiltsuk families to rebuild on their traditional harvesting area. The camp will be drug and alcohol free. Although food will be supplied at the camp, people can also bring their own.

Donations can be mailed to I-M Project, #212-258 Gorge Rd. E., Victoria, BC, Canada, V9A 6W5; (604) 995-2185. For information regarding transport to the area, contact Mary Vickers in advance at (604) 995-2187 or Mitch Vickers at (604) 957-2331.

INDIAN FARMERS FRY THE COLONEL

The Farmer's Forum, an Indian coalition of farmer workers blamed for wrecking India's first outlet of Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), has vowed to step up a campaign here against the US fast-food giant. The farmers' organizations of India have opposed the entry of transnational corporations in the sectors of agriculture and agro-processing, which they maintain provide livelihoods for over 70 percent of the Indian population. The entry of multinationals in these sectors is the first step towards destroying their food security.

Environmental, animal rights, consumer and health activists and other concerned people have been opposing the entry of fast food chains like KFC and McDonalds into India on the grounds of environmental unsustainability, cruelty to animals, health hazards and erosion of national cultural values.

The issue was taken up in the Indian Parliament earlier, when members of the Opposition parties questioned the ruling party's decision to allow transnational corporations to open "junk food" outlets.

KFC's power to influence government decisions has been obvious since the first case filed against the transnational corporations on the grounds of health hazards (their fried chicken contained more monosodium glutamate than permissible). KFC persuaded the Indian government to change its standards to allow KFC to be sold in India.

After the Delhi High Court judgment, the KFC spokesperson arrogantly described as a "plus point" the introduction of factory farming of chicken on a very large scale. KFC went a step ahead and invested \$40 (US) million to open a chain of its restaurants all over the country.

The farmer's forum in the southern state of Karnataka said it would fight KFC and other multinationals "tooth and nail" to prevent their entry into India.

Activists of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association blocked traffic in Karnataka to protest the arrest on February 3 of their leader, 62 year-old Professor MD Nanjundaswamy. He is the

founder of the Forum and is known for his work in organizing the farmers of the Seed Satyagraha and for opposing the penetration into India of transnational corporations such as Cargill Seeds and PepsiCo.

Police are holding Nanjundaswamy in connection with the ransacking of a KFC outlet in Bangalore on May 1 and said he would soon face trial on criminal charges. Charges include attempted murder among other offenses such as looting and unlawful assembly. Nanjundaswamy, though not present during the farmers' attack on the KFC outlet, has taken moral responsibility for the action.

About 200 Karnataka State Farmers' Association activists are also in police custody for the action. They are being charged with "breaking windows, smashing furniture, burning ledgers and throwing utensils from the two-storied restaurant on to the street."

It was the consistent and complete disregard of people's concerns both by KFC and the state government that compelled the farmers to take the only option left to them—direct physical action. A KFC employee, on condition of anonymity, even admitted that no equipment, anywhere on the premises was damaged, no customer or staff sustained any injury, no money was stolen from the outlet; only glass panes and electrical fittings were smashed.

The citizens of Bangalore, including farmers, had earlier peacefully protested the opening of the outlet numerous times. Since the KFC action, activists have picketed offices at several places including Mandya, Mysore, Kalchur, Galbarga and Bijapur in protest against the arrest of Nanjundaswamy. Farmers blocked roads in a number of places and demanded withdrawal of false charges leveled against the activists who ransacked the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, which now exists under beefed up security.

The Hindu militant Shiv Sena (Shivaji's Army) party, in power in the western state of Maharashtra, has also vowed to prevent KFC's entry into the state capital, Bombay.

The persecution of the activists is an example of the increasing power of transnational corporations with the concurrent shrinkage of democratic options open to citizens.

LAOTIAN DAM GETS A REALITY CHECK

BY RANI DERASARY

The end of 1995 was a rocky time for Laos' Nam Theun II Dam. First, a World Bank mission traveled to Laos to assess the project, only to determine the need for more studies before they decide whether to fund it, a decision that may now be put off until next year. Then, an independent review of the project's environmental assessment found the hydrological data insufficient to assess the economic viability and environmental impacts of the project. Finally, the Nam Theun II engineering team admitted to underestimating the area to be flooded by 100 square kilometers.

Located in central Laos on the upper Theun River, the fourth largest tributary of the Mekong River, Nam Theun II would displace thousands of villagers. Thousands more would be affected by disruption of fisheries and agriculture along the Theun and Se Bang Fai Rivers. In addition, the project threatens to flood more than four hundred square kilometers of the Nakai Plateau, a unique and diverse area of grasslands, pine and cypress forests and one of the world's largest remaining wildlife habitats. The 681 megawatt dam is intended to be financed mostly by the private sector. Its power output will be sold to Thailand.

Increased Reservoir Size

Perhaps the worst of the dam's troubles was revealed in December, when Bangkok's English language daily *The Nation* exposed a major embarrassment for the Nam Theun II engineering team. As they moved into the detailed design phase last September, project engineers suddenly realized they had been using the wrong topographical maps. As a result, maximum reservoir size will increase by nearly a third, leaving more people displaced than previously expected. Laotian environmental officials also are concerned about the dam's effect on flood patterns and water quality in the downstream Se Bang Fai river basin.

Inadequate Hydrological Data

Around the same time as the outdated map fiasco, a second



Nam Theun II Dam Site

problem with faulty data was discovered in a review of the project's environmental documents. A hydrologist was commissioned by International Rivers Network (IRN) to review the hydrological data in the Environmental Assessment and Management Plan (Report E2) for Nam Theun II. The review states that "the hydrologic information presented in Report E2... is not sufficient to fully assess the Nam Theun II Hydroelectric Project's viability, baseline environmental conditions, and potential impacts to water resources and related natural/human resources." Several decades of stream flow statistics are required to plan a large dam properly. According to Report E2, however, there appears only to be seven years' worth of rainfall (not stream flow) data available for most of the Theun River Basin. The use of seven-year periods of rainfall records to assess average and extreme streamflow records is ridiculous.

Without adequate knowledge of how much water will be available to turn the dam's turbines, financial institutions which invest in the dam expose themselves to a high risk of failing to recoup their investment from electricity sales.

The World Bank's decision to delay is a setback for developers who had hoped to have project financing for the \$1.2 billion project in place by the end of 1995, with construction beginning in 1996, and completed in time to meet its agreement of selling Thailand electricity by the year 2000.

Uncertain investors pose a very real impediment for Nam Theun II and other privately financed dams proposed for the region. A top banker in Laos summed up the problem in an October *Financial Times* article: "I am struck by the lack of private sector interest in many of these projects," said Wong Yit Fan, chief economist for Southeast Asia at Standard Chartered Bank. "If they were viable, there would be a lot more activity and interest from the private sector."

For more information contact International Rivers Network at 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 848-1155; fax 848-1008; email: irn@irn.org; <http://www.irn.org>

MEXICO'S "GOLF WAR"

BY ANDREW WHEAT

Tepoztlan, Mexico—An April 10 police ambush of villagers protesting a proposed luxury development killed one man and inflicted shootings and beatings on approximately 100 other people.

The villagers opposed plans by Mexican development company Grupo KS to build 800 luxury homes, a five star hotel, a business park, a helicopter pad, an artificial lake, Mexico's first golf academy, an 18-hole pro golf course and other recreational facilities on land that has been federally recognized as El Tepozteco National Park and the Ajusco-Chichinautzin biological corridor.

The police ambush had an unexpected effect: Citing the violence and "non-existing guarantees to both the investors, the municipality inhabitants and to the State of Morelos community in general," Grupo KS announced it was "canceling the development project." Many villagers greeted the withdrawal announcement with skepticism, but it appears to have put an end, for now, to the "golf war" that broke out in 1995 on prized land outside of Cuernavaca, some 45 miles south of Mexico City's sprawl. Grupo KS still adamantly maintains its land claim and pledged to develop the area as it sees fit in the future.

Although Mexican entrepreneurs masterminded El Tepozteco, two US interests figured prominently in the plans: US telecommunications giant GTE and Golden Bear Course Management, the golf course design company owned by golf legend Jack Nicklaus.

The Tepoztlan activists won an earlier victory in October 1995, when GTE announced that it would seek another site for the \$30 million data services facility that it had planned to build in the proposed \$32.3 million "El Tepozteco" development.

The golf course alone would have consumed more than 4,000 cubic meters of water a day. This amounts to five times as much water as the 28,000 inhabitants of Tepoztlan now consume. Tepoztecos, as the villagers are known, were concerned about the golf course's expected heavy use of agrochemicals and the potential for them to enter the water table and harm the region's rich biodiversity.

Developers confronted formidable opponents in the Tepoztecos. The state of Morelos was the home of Mexican Revolution hero Emiliano Zapata, who maintained a fort in Tepoztlan as one front in his battle to give peasants title to the lands that they worked for wealthy landowners. Tepoztecos are proud of their

revolutionary heritage—one that has prevailed in the face of relentless battles over development.

Another tragedy occurred when two people were shot, one fatally, by pro-developerment villagers. In response, the State of Morelos issued arrest warrants for 14 people. None of those charged, however, were among the suspects apprehended by Tepoztlan security volunteers, and all of them opposed the development project. The three men who have been imprisoned in connection with the death of one of the victims were not even at the scene of the crime.

Morelos Government Secretary Guillermo Malo said that the state would release one of the prisoners if Tepoztlan agreed to hold the new elections that the governor had been calling for and would release a second prisoner after the election—an unusual deal to offer regarding alleged murder suspects.

Amnesty International will adopt the three men as prisoners of conscience and write on their behalf. The political prisoners have already accumulated a debt of \$2,200 (US) in legal fees.

On April 10, Tepoztlan villagers prepared a petition opposing the development signed by approximately 5,000 residents to present to President Ernesto Zedillo who was traveling to Morelos to deliver a speech. They never delivered the petition.

On the way to the speech, the Tepoztlan caravan encountered two sugarcane trucks blocking the road. When the caravan stopped, State of Morelos police emerged from behind the trucks, knocked out windows in the buses from Tepoztlan and opened fire. To force them off the bus, the police beat many elderly, women and children who attempted to hide under their seats. One 64 year old man was murdered and 100 other residents received bullet or beating wounds; more than 60 of them made formal complaints to the National Human Rights Commission.

Charges that various levels and agencies of the Mexican government are willing to abuse human rights and corrupt the judicial process to squelch political opposition to elite-favored projects, are of the highest order, because they impugn the integrity of the Mexican political system. Unless the Zedillo administration acquits itself of the charge, it will have disqualified itself as a legitimate partner in US-Mexico economic cooperation on human rights grounds alone.

This is an edited version of an article that appeared in the May, 1996, issue of the Multinational Monitor. Send donations to the political prisoners at The Tepoztlan Defense Fund, POB 19367 Washington DC 20036



UKRANIANS PROTEST CHERNOBYL

BY X-USSR ANTINUCLEAR CAMPAIGN

On April 23, 1996, international and Ukrainian environmentalists organized non-violent direct action to protest Ukrainian nuclear development plans. Two actions took place on Independence Square in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, and, later, near the Cabinet of Ministers' building. The activists demanded that the government stop nuclear developments in Ukraine, shut down Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and develop non-nuclear energy alternatives for Ukraine.

The anti-nuke performance started in Independence Square, where 30 activists built a symbolic chain of Ukrainian nuclear independence holding a 25-meter banner stating "I make the nuclear free zone in my home!" They blocked the road to the Cabinet of Ministers and a youth art group from Sympheropol, a South Ukrainian city, did a dance performance.

Also, Paxus Caltas (Global 2000 and Hnuti DUHA anti-nuke campaigner), Vladimir Sliviak (ECODEFENCE! and Socio-Ecological Union anti-nuke campaigner) and Sergey Fomichev (Rainbow Keepers) spoke to the people about nuclear dangers,

the Chernobyl plant and the end of global nuclear technology. After 30 minutes the police attacked the environmentalists and made arrests with unreasonable violence.

Nineteen anti-nuke protesters (from Russia, Ukraine, USA, the Netherlands and other countries) were arrested and transported to the Pecherskiy Police office of Kiev. Most of the activists were injured by the special guard during the arrests.

The trial took place in the Pechersky Police office. Five activists were fined immediately. The Judge was particularly aggressive and didn't give any chance for arrested activists to speak. The environmentalists couldn't get lawyers, medical experts or translators.

Five activists started a hunger strike after they were arrested but suffered from the lack of human rights in jail. Two released activists—Vladimire Sliviak and Serfey Fomichev_gave a street press-conference on April 26. "The authorities tried to threaten us and to break our plans for April 26, Chernobyl's 10-anniversary, but they can't kill the memory of Chernobyl," said Sliviak of Socio-Ecological Union and ECODEFENCE! Four activists raised the banner "Chernobyl victim numbers grow" near the press-conference and sat with it until the police came again.

OIL WATCH

BY ADRIAN BOUTUREIRA

On February 23, Earth First! participated in the founding of OIL WATCH in Ecuador. OIL WATCH as a concept was spearheaded by members of Accion Ecologica, an Ecuadorian NGO led and primarily composed of Ecuadorian sisters (something quite encouraging and unique in this neck of the woods). As an organization, Accion Ecologica has a pretty good militant track record amongst Ecuadorian environmental groups, and they were instrumental in internationally exposing Texaco for its colonialist, irresponsible environmental and social actions in the Amazon. This experience gave birth to the idea of forming a network to deal with national and multinational oil industry interests and their assault on people and lands.

As a last minute guest, EF! got to help out with the last frantic phase of the preparations for this event, and later participated in the different facets of the conference. Being a member of the translating team, we got to contribute more than a mouthful (and in two languages).

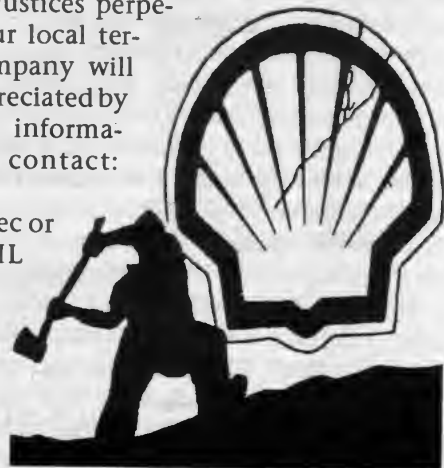
So what happened? The purpose of the conference was to gather the many interested parties to join forces in order to protect tropical biodiversity and indigenous and non-indigenous communities from the onslaught of the greedy oil industry. In attendance were representatives from some of the affected countries—Brazil, Burma, Thailand, Colombia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa and Sri Lanka—as well as fellow activists from the perpetrating countries—Belgium, Canada, UK, Italy, Holland and the US.

Things picked up quickly. We left the big city of Quito for the scary frontier town of Lago Agrio in the Amazon. Scary because this place would never have existed had it not been for Texaco's operations in the area. We stayed in Lago Agrio for three days, carrying out the workshops and visiting various polluted sites as well as affected communities. The conference in Lago Agrio met its primary objectives of bringing together activists from different countries and laying the groundwork for OIL WATCH.

It didn't take long for everyone to realize that whether it was Texaco, Shell, Occidental Oil Company, the criminal behavior of oil companies remains constant. The conference resulted in the establishment of a work plan for the first year consisting of production of a monthly newsletter, establishing a data bank of oil industry practices and activities, and setting up communications between participants. On the last day of the conference, a demonstration was organized by OIL WATCH against Shell in solidarity with the Nigerian people.

OIL WATCH recently attended a conference of Colombian indigenous communities held to deal with an oil interest intrusion into virgin jungle by the Colombian national oil company, Ecopetrol. OIL WATCH is also launching an international immediate action campaign on behalf of the U'wa people who are threatening mass suicide if Occidental Oil Company is allowed by the Colombian government to follow through with plans to explore and exploit oil in their land. OIL WATCH is hoping to find the funds to organize a regional workshop to strengthen the U'wa position.

Whatever truth-loving folks can do from their end to help fight against this and other injustices perpetrated by your local terrorist oil company will be highly appreciated by all. For more information please contact: tegantai@oilwatch.ecx.ec or phone OIL WATCH in Quito at phone (593 2) 235-880 ext. 130.



ACTIVISTS PRACTICE DIRECT DISARMAMENT AT ELF FACILITY

BY WILL FANTLE

Two peace activists chose Earth Day for an act of what they call "direct disarmament." Using hand saws, Tom and Donna Howard-Hastings toppled three 40-foot antenna poles at the Navy's Project ELF transmitter in the Chequamegon National Forest near Clam Lake, Wisconsin. Their action temporarily shut down the facility, which military experts have called a "bell-ringer" useful for launching a nuclear missile attack.

"These are bold acts and we hope to challenge other people to get involved," Tom Howard-Hastings said at the site. The controversial communications system has long been a target of peace activists and environmentalists since it was first proposed and built by the Navy during the 1960's.

Project ELF (ELF stands for Extremely Low Frequency) bounces a secret, encoded radio message—powered by millions of volts of electricity—into the ground, off Wisconsin's granite bedrock, and back to 28 miles of cross-shaped antenna cables strung above ground. The antenna beams the signal 40 to 250 miles up into the atmosphere where it encircles the globe and extends deep into the oceans.

Special radio receivers aboard the Navy's Trident nuclear submarines can decode the messages while remaining far under water and hidden from detection. It's a one-way signal, as the subs lack the capability to return any messages of their own. The Trident fleet, to which the Pentagon is still adding subs, carries 100,000 times the firepower that vaporized Hiroshima in 1945.

As they entered the national forest at 5 am, Tom and Donna Howard-Hastings were greeted by thick banks of icy, melting snow, puddled water, and scattered patches of spongy, bare earth. The pair established a worksite away from the road and under the antenna system's right-of-way. Near small saplings and under the banner of an earth flag, they drove several stakes and affixed photos of children dear to them.

The deep-woods' quiet and brisk, pine scented morning air was punctuated only by the songs of nearby birds and the rhythmic sawing of the Howard-Hastings team. At 9:45 am, their sawing complete, the pair pushed mightily on one of the 40-foot poles. Several loud cracks echoed across the forest and three poles, with their antenna cables twanging and vibrating, lunged earthward touching the ground and shorting out the ELF transmitter.

The couple next cut a chunk from one of the poles, attached an indictment to it charging the US government with violating international war crimes,

and lugged the wood about a mile to the transmitter compound where they turned themselves in to the authorities. An hour and a half later the police arrived at the site and placed them under arrest.

"My knees are shaking and I'm happy," Donna Howard-Hastings said after the poles were toppled. "It's a high and a scare. I've wanted to do this for so long."

Part of her fear may rest with the uncertainty awaiting them in the bowels of the justice system. Married only last fall, the couple certainly won't be visiting Disneyland anytime soon. They've been charged in an Ashland County court with felony sabotage and criminal damage to property (a misdemeanor). They remain in jail, each having refused to post a \$500 bond for release carrying the condition that they not go near the ELF site.

The more serious charge of sabotage carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. The statute was successfully applied in 1987 to an earlier ELF protester, George Ostenson, who downed an antenna pole and damaged electrical boxes at the transmitter compound. He was sentenced to 33 months in prison.

Both the Howard-Hastings undertook their actions only after long and careful deliberation. "We have invested eight months of our lives in this," says Donna, a mother of two grown sons and a longtime resident of Duluth. Having severed her ties to property and to work (she has been part of the Loaves and Fishes catholic worker community in Duluth), she says "The truth for me is so more immediate."

For Tom Howard-Hastings, the pole toppling another step in his long opposition to Project ELF. He has been part of numerous peaceful protests at the site, trespassed onto the site, and was convicted in 1985 of felling an ELF pole at the Navy's companion ELF transmitter site near Republic, Michigan, which was then under construction. He too has cut his ties to work and property. "I think what we've done today," he observed at the site, "reflects what the citizens want."

Indeed, the failure of our political system to close the ELF site was highlighted by both activists as a driving force behind their actions.

Numerous polls and votes have shown overwhelming opposition to ELF since it was initially proposed. As recently as last year the full US Senate (led by Wisconsin Senators Feingold and Kohl) twice voted to delete the \$14 million funding appropriation for ELF. Both moves never got past a House-Senate conference committee.

Congressman Obey, who's Wisconsin district includes the ELF site, has sought to shut the facility during much of his lengthy tenure in the House. A spokesman from his office says Obey will continue to fight to delete ELF's funding but he is "not optimistic" that the effort will succeed.

The Howard-Hastings describe their effort as the 56th known act of non-violent, direct disarmament taken by American citizens against the nuclear war machine since the early 1980's.

As to what people can do to help Tom and Donna, like anyone in jail, they enjoy receiving letters, etc. and particularly donations of stamps. [See also story below-ed.]

To get involved with the ELF issue, contact Nukewatch at POB 2658, Madison, WI 53701; (608) 767-3023; email: nukewatch@itis.com; and Stop Project ELF, 740 Round Lake Rd, Luck, WI 54853; (715) 472-8721; email: jmiles@win.bright.net.

People can also always do the tried and tired path of writing their elected officials and asking them to join Wisconsin Senators' Feingold and Kohl and Rep. Obey in seeking to delete the annual military appropriation for Project ELF. Stop Project ELF also sponsors regular demo's at the ELF facility in Wisconsin.

A version of this article originally appeared in Isthmus.



The Howard-Hastings in action

photo by Cory Bartholomew/Nukewatch

A Fast Way to Save the Earth...

BY TOM HOWARD-HASTINGS

On Earth Day, April 22, Donna Howard-Hastings and I cut down three poles at the US Navy's Project ELF. We are in jail on two felony counts awaiting trial.

The Pentagon and the President, mainstream media and Congress would all have you believe that we've just about tamed the nuclear beast; at the least we've properly chained it to the back of the cave and will administer euthanasia when it's convenient. Goebbels did the same thing to Germans quite successfully. The Big Lie: Say it simple, say it often and the masses will eventually nod along, "Yup, everyone knows that."

But the US Navy continues to build more advanced nuclear weapons and delivery systems even as they dismantle the obsolete models. Six Trident II D-5 missiles will roll off the line this year at a cost of \$541.7 million, another Trident submarine is under construction at more than \$2 billion, a Seawolf nuclear-armed submarine at \$1.6 billion, a New Attack nuclear-armed submarine at \$1.15 billion and on and on.

The US spends an insane \$75 million every single day preparing to wage nuclear incineration and radioactive contamination against the Earth.

But there's downsizing at the EPA, "restructuring" in the National Parks Service and a loss of clean-up and monitoring funds nationwide.

The Pentagon is the most terrible threat to the Earth extant in the world today:

- The US Navy and the rest of the military routinely manage to gain exemptions from environmental laws.
- The US military and its related industries have produced—and continue to produce—more Superfund sites than any other economic sector.
- The Pentagon is the world's largest consumer of petroleum and strategic minerals.
- The US Navy spends very little to clean up its legacy of nuclear contamination even as it continues to create more of the same. The country will have to spend \$230 billion, at the most conservative estimate, to clean up US nuclear weapons contamination, not including the mess they continue to make.

•The ELF facility we sabotaged spends about \$50,000 per month just on electricity.

Of course, this is the short list. This doesn't include lands stolen by the military, chemical weapons leakage and incineration, biological weaponry just waiting for an accident and much more.

Fighting the Pentagon by any non-violent means at our disposal is the most immediate act of Earth defense my wife Donna and I can think of. So we're looking at charges of 10 years imprisonment, \$20,000 in fines and \$15,000 or more restitution. We view our actions as our service in the "disarmy" and we cannot imagine that nonviolence will ever succeed until we can field many more who are willing to sacrifice, just as other soldiers have sacrificed for at least the last 13,500 years of warfare.

So we are hoping you'll help us in our little effort. We two are puny but everyone who helps makes this campaign more likely to succeed. You can use a powerful non-violent weapon with proven results any day, from any place to help get a victory in this 27-year struggle against the Navy in north-

ern Wisconsin.

You can join our relay fast. I started it on May 19 at sunrise and Donna is picking it up soon. We are looking for people who are willing to take a day or more and commit to sacrificing comfort for at least one sunrise-to-sunrise time period. We will breakfast when one of these things happens:

- 1) Judge Robert Eaton, who has historically defended this illegal and immoral facility, recuses himself.
- 2) Judge Eaton acts to enjoin the US Navy from further ELF operations (except dismantlement).

We will continue this fast at least until next October 9, World Hunger Day.

We ask these things of anyone who wishes to help: 1) Write myself or Donna at County Jail, 221 E. 7th, Ashland, WI 54806 to tell us what day(s) you can commit to fasting. 2) Write Judge Robert Eaton, Ashland County Courthouse, Ashland, WI 54806 to tell him what days you'll be fasting against his behavior. 3) Write or call your elected federal representative or your local media to promote the shutdown of this system and all nuclear facilities.

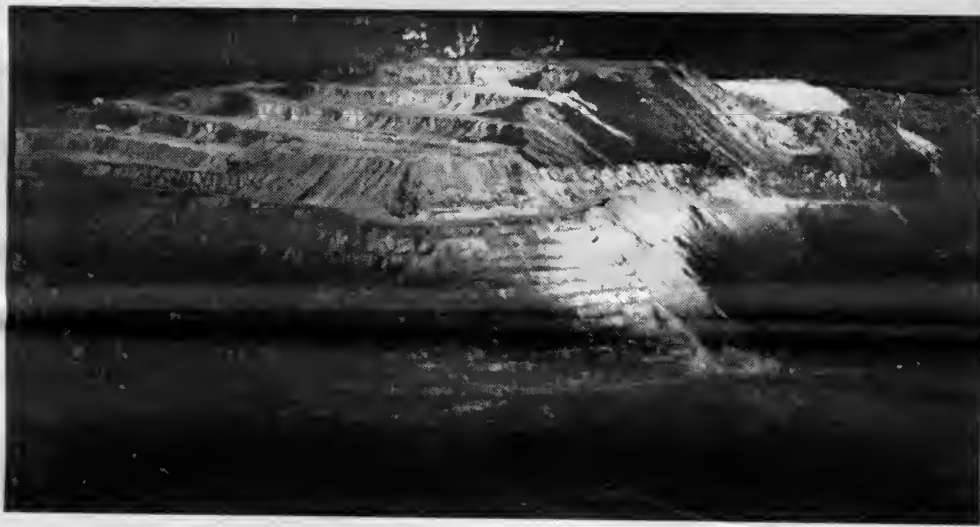
Multinational on the rampage: Freeport McMoRan

In response to a week of rioting in the remote jungles of West Papua New Guinea, Freeport McMoRan's CEO Jim Bob Moffett visited with forty tribespeople to hear their concerns about Freeport's copper and gold mine. Mama Yosepha, one of the women who was detained in a [Freeport mining] container last year, spoke to Moffett in the Amungme language, which means as follows: "My son Moffett, in the past I put you inside my noken [noken is a native woven bag which the Amungme women use to carry babies and piglets], I took you with me wherever I went, but I did not realize that you actually suck my blood until it's all drained, and I remain only in bones without flesh. Now I pick you out of my noken and will throw you far away." (And she threw her noken to the floor.)

James Moffett then spoke to Mama Yosepha: "Mama, isn't there any time and ways for us to have peace?" (in tears for the second time in the meeting).

Mama Yosepha answered, "When I have thrown something, I will not pick it again. But if you promise to fulfill our demand [including the right to be consulted on any expansion of the mine], written on paper, then I will put you inside my noken again."

A week later Freeport announced an agreement with Bechtel Corp. to begin a redoubling of the mine production. The Amungme were not consulted.



Grasberg mine... BOYCOTT GOLD!

Freeport McMoRan is a monstrosity. Those of us who have worked to oppose them find it difficult to put into words the extent of their crimes, as they run roughshod over democracy, ecological sanity, and basic human rights. This multinational corporation exerts its wealth and power to dominate those around it, and weaves an intricate web to support its hegemony.

Freeport acts on numerous levels to maintain its power. It is closely tied with the brutal (genocidal, corrupt, repressive, expansionist, totalitarian, racist, capitalist, American installed, backed, and financed,) government of Indonesia. Indonesia owns 10% of Freeport's huge gold and copper mine in West Papua (story pg. 3), and provides troops to protect it from indigenous people. The government also prevents entrance by outside observers. Freeport lobbies Washington for military aid to Indonesia. Indonesia's President Suharto lobbies Washington for corporate welfare for Freeport. Two bloated backs thus get scratched.

To dominate on the home front, Freeport relies on three props: contributions to political candidates, buying up the free press, and "gifts" to select organizations. Freeport has given tens of thousands of dollars to city council candidates in Austin, and the mayor sits squarely in their pocket.

Most of the Texas legislature has also benefited from gifts from Freeport's ten Texas lobbyists. Legislators then engage in the blood sport known as "Austin-bashing," to prevent Austin from regulating developers such as Freeport. Nationwide, members of Congress have accepted over \$730,000 from Freeport. Senator Bennett Johnston, who scored \$8,000 from Freeport, has pushed to gut the Endangered Species Act (which hinders Freeport's developments), to kill the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (which keeps listing Freeport as the worst polluter nation-wide), and to resume small arms sales to Indonesia

(you need guns to guard mines).

Freeport's spending spree in the media has been no less awe-inspiring. Opposition to Freeport brings an immediate response in advertising consisting of half hour "infomercials" and full page ads in local and national newspapers (costing in the tens of thousands a pop). (An eight page ad in *Texas Monthly* is just a drop from the bucket of the PR team's budget.) Suddenly the media doesn't feel obliged to cover the shadier deeds of one of their biggest advertisers. Even more insidious, Freeport has a habit of buying up media critics, such as CBS reporter Garland Robinette, NBC reporter Gerard Braud and Austin American-Statesmen reporter Bill Collier, and turning them into company spokesmen (or spokesrobots from all appearances). New Orleans and Austin have both lost formerly aggressive journalists to this tactic.

The third leg of Freeport's control strategy is gifts to specific organizations. Gifts to the Nature Conservancy of Texas helped them smooth over the rough waters of building a megadevelopment the city doesn't want; gifts to charities help bring out pro-Freeport speakers at city council meeting; gifts to all five New Orleans universities get Freeport people into academic circles and let them draft mission statements for the chairs they endow. Gifts to the University of Texas at Austin have reaped perhaps the biggest returns. UT Chancellor William Cunningham (who until very recently sat on Freeport's Board of Directors) helped set up contracts employing UT geology students and professors to explore for more minerals in West Papua for Freeport - at a fraction of the cost of hiring

a professional surveying firm. Also, Freeport's gifts and Cunningham's support have gotten a building under construction to be named for the CEO Jim Bob Moffett, in spite of opposition from the student body, faculty and community.

These are by no means the extent of Freeport's attempts to dominate their world. Lawsuits are common. The city of Austin is still fighting one, while seven activists, journalists, and university professors were recently threatened with SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) suits.

Freeport meanwhile strengthens its links to other multinationals, building a copper smelter with Fluor Daniel and Mitsubishi and expanding their Grasberg mine with the help of Bechtel and RTZ (which Survival International in 1992 named the greatest corporate threat to indigenous peoples). A Freeport joint venture with well-known polluter Asarco will experiment with underground acid-solution copper mining near Casa Grande, Arizona (with \$16 million of federal money).

It is difficult for Freeport watchers to understand how this company, which owns the world's largest gold mine and which was the nation's largest water polluter in 1988 and the largest overall toxic polluter in 1992 and 1993, can maintain such a low profile. Until very recently, Freeport was known by few Americans outside of Austin and New Orleans. This situation is changing rapidly, however, as indigenous resistance in West Papua has focused global attention on Freeport. As people from movements of all kinds become more aware of the threat that transnational corporations pose to humans, democracy, and the Earth, Freeport is becoming known as a full partner in ignominy with the likes of Exxon, Shell, Mitsubishi, and DuPont.

Freeport McMoRan across

Freeport at a glance

Freeport McMoRan is a Fortune 500 company known best for its gold and copper mine in **West Papua, Indonesia**. As the world's largest gold reserve and the third largest open pit copper mine, this concession is worth an estimated \$60 billion, and generated \$380 million last year alone. Copper ore from the Grasberg mine is now smelted in Freeport's **Rio Tinto Minera** facility in **Huelva, Spain**. A joint venture with Fluor Daniel and Mitsubishi will establish an additional smelter in **Java, Indonesia** by 1998.

In **Casa Grande, Arizona**, a joint venture with Asarco will test underground acid-solution copper mining. A gold mine in **Jerrett Canyon, Nevada** is a joint venture with the FMC Corp.

IMC-Agrico is one of Freeport's main cash cow subsidiaries, producing agricultural minerals. IMC-Agrico operates eight open pit phosphate rock mines in **central Florida, New Wales, Florida** is the site of their concentrated phosphates operation, the largest of its kind in the world. Another plant is located in **Mulberry, FL**. IMC-Agrico has two mines near **Esterhazy, Saskatchewan** which produces muriate of potash. A mine near **Carlsbad, New Mexico** produces potash under the SUL-PO-MAG brand name. Fifteen facilities in the **Southern U.S.**, including **Hahnville, St. James, and Uncle Sam, Louisiana** produce SUPER RAINBOW, RAINBOW and INTERNATIONAL brand names fertilizers. These operations make Freeport the largest phosphate fertilizer producer in the world (And the biggest water polluter.)

Main Pass 299 is an IMC-Agrico sulfur, oil and natural gas mine in the **Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coast**.

Many oil and gas properties are owned by subsidiary Freeport McMoRan Resource Partners. L.P. Subsidiary **Freeport Uranium Recovery Co.** is involved in **uranium extraction in West Texas**.

A subsidiary of Freeport, **Barton Creek Properties** is developing a four thousand+ acre

tract on **Austin, Texas'** beloved Barton Creek, threatening the creek and Barton Springs, and endangered species habitat.

Freeport's **Board of Directors** notables include **Jim Bob Moffett**, CEO of Freeport. Raised in Houston in a fatherless household, Moffett went to UT and made the football team. After graduating from UT in 1961, he moved to New Orleans and went into business with two partners to form McMoRan, an oil exploration company, and became its CEO in 1980. In '81 he merged the company with Freeport Minerals (which was already mining in West Papua), forming Freeport McMoRan. Moffett is flamboyant, often quoted to his own embarrassment. (See p.4). Although often portrayed as a nouveau-riche buffoon, Moffett is an extremely shrewd, if ethically challenged businessman with a drive to succeed that makes one wonder what he's trying to prove, or who he's trying to impress. ("Daddy??") Moffett's pay package for 1995 exceeded \$47.6 million.

Former Secretary of State **Henry Kissinger** is on Freeport's BOD, and the lobbyist of choice for dealings with Indonesia. (He visited with Suharto just before the bloody invasion of East Timor, to give full American support.) When OPIC cancelled Freeport's (taxpayer funded) political risk insurance for the West Papuan mine, Kissinger lobbied President Clinton to get the policy reinstated.

Boise-Cascade director **Ward Woodward** is also on Freeport's BOD. His seat on the board of governors of the Nature Conservancy is probably an asset to Freeport in its greenwashing campaigns.

Until recently, "**Dollar**" **Bill Cunningham**, Chancellor of the University of Texas System, was also on Freeport's BOD. Cunningham greased the wheel for the Geology Dept. of UT to send grad students and professors to prospect for Freeport in West Papua, and convinced the UT System Board of Regents to name a new UT building after Jim Bob Moffett. Cunningham resigned from the BOD shortly after Freeport threatened to sue UT professors who distributed information about the human rights situation in West Papua.



John Dolley

Spoiling Sacred Waters in Austin, TX

Freeport McMoRan's efforts to develop along Austin's Barton Creek have not been without drama: an all-night city council hearing, a citizens' initiative to strengthen the city's water quality regulations, threats to bankrupt the city, numerous lawsuits and a Freeport-backed assault by the Texas Legislature on Austin's power to govern itself.

At the heart of the battle is Austin's favorite swimming hole, Barton Springs, in the center of Austin's largest urban park. Freeport's Barton Creek Properties is attempting to develop 4,000 acres along Barton Creek, eight miles upstream from the Springs.

Freeport bought the property in 1988, and plans to build 3,000 to 5,000 homes and 2- 1/2 million square feet of commercial development.

On June 7, 1990, almost a thousand people showed up at an Austin city council meeting to oppose the Barton Creek Planned Unit Development (PUD). At 6:30 the following morning, the city council unanimously rejected the PUD.

In the wake of the PUD battle and subsequent foot-dragging by the city council, a group of citizens drafted the Save Our Springs Ordinance, which called for tougher water quality standards. In August, 1992, the SOS Ordinance was adopted by Austin voters by a 2 to 1 majority.

Freeport subsequently challenged the SOS in court, and in 1994 the law was struck down. Appeals are continuing.

In the meantime, Freeport proceeded on two fronts. Barton Creek Properties submitted its rejected PUD plan as a series of thirteen subdivisions, which, under Texas law, are subject to less-stringent standards. Freeport also successfully lobbied state lawmakers for special legislation which removed their project from Austin water quality controls.

On balance, the efforts to stop the Barton Creek PUD have been fairly successful. Freeport's original plans called for getting zoning approval by 1990, followed by flipping the property to another developer. Freeport planned to be out of Austin by 1992.

The best measure of the effectiveness of Austin's efforts to fight the company comes from Freeport CEO Jim Bob Moffett, who told the Rotary Club that Austin's environmental community has cost him \$27 million. That's a small fraction of what it's going to cost him before this battle is over.

New Orleans Activists Protest Freeport Shareholders' Meeting

by Jim Demetras

On Tuesday, April 30 a group of about 30 protesters picketed Freeport McMoRan's annual shareholders meeting in New Orleans. At least eight public interest groups were represented including the Sierra Club, Pax Christi, Freeport Watch and the Delta Greens. The protest was well covered by TV and print media.

Controversy erupted in New Orleans last October when OPIC, the federal agency which provides taxpayer funded insurance for US companies with operations in foreign countries, revoked Freeport's \$100 million political risk insurance. In spite of a furnished statement by OPIC saying that the action had been taken because of environmental concerns involving Freeport's dumping of mine tailings into local river systems in Indonesia, Jim Bob Moffett, Freeport's CEO, denied that environmental issues had anything to do with the decision.

The Loyola University community began to question the wisdom of accepting a \$600,000 donation from Freeport to endow an environ-

mental chair. In November students, faculty, and members of local environmental groups (joined by a contingent of Austin Earth First!) protested outside Moffett's New Orleans home. This action brought a good deal of media attention to the issue and in the months since, the controversy has remained alive. Other Louisiana universities have already established environmental chairs with Freeport money. The University of New Orleans, in particular, has received large sums from the company, and Moffett holds positions in the university's Foundation and Capital Drive Committee. At Loyola, however, the proposed chair has still not been filled. Although Freeport has, to some extent, backed away from tactics such as threats of legal suits against outspoken academics, the company is far from doing an about face. It appears likely that only continued public pressure will force Freeport into a more responsible position regarding its Indonesian operations and its environmental posture worldwide.

West Papua: Modern Mining in a Stone Age Land

"Take it and kill me," said an Amungme chief, handing his knife to a representative of Freeport McMoRan, "because I can't stand anymore to see these problems. ... Slice the left side of the body and bury each piece from here to Grasberg. ... On your way back round up all the Amungme people, our pigs and every piece we have. And make a huge hole to bury us with all our belongings. You cover that and then do anything you want."

The Freeport man did not take the chief up on his offer, but his company's operations achieve the same end. Freeport's gold and copper mining operation in West Papua is one of the most tragic examples of what can happen when First World greed impacts a Fourth World culture.

Freeport began mining the Ertsberg mountain in 1972 under a contract with the Indonesian government, which did not bother to consult the Amungme people. Not surprising, considering that the 1969 "Act of Free Choice" under which In-

donesia annexed West Papua was also done without the permission of the Fourth World peoples of the country. Racism is the undercurrent attitude of Indonesia towards these Melanesian (black) people, and they are afforded no legal rights to their traditional lands, or it seems, to their lives.

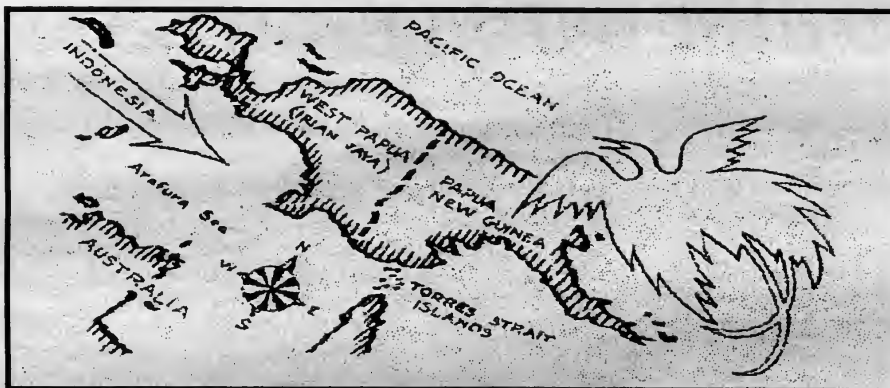
The dispossession of their lands, forced resettlement into malaria-ridden lowlands, pollution of rivers, and worse - torture, rape, and massacres, have been the result of Freeport's mines for the Amungme, Dani, Moni, Komoro, Me, Ekari, and Nduga people.

After Freeport exhausted the Ertsberg mine,

leaving a pit of dimensions larger than the original mountain, they moved on to the even bigger Grasberg mountain.

For Freeport, the mine has reaped unfathomable profits. After refining, Grasberg yields about \$7 million worth of minerals a day. Freeport dumps 115,000 tons a day of tailings into rivers below the mine. Silt clogs rivers, killing sago palms and fish that the Komoro eat, and has choked about fifteen square miles of forest on the Ajkwa River.

Resistance to the mine and the military presence it requires has assumed many forms: from spears and arrows to more modern tactics. Recently, Tom Beanal, leader of LEMASA, the Amungme tribal council, filed a \$6 billion class action lawsuit against Freeport on behalf of the people impacted by the mine. The suit was filed in New Orleans District Court on April 29.



Hostage Situation Highlights Freeport

On January 8, 1996, the OPM (Free Papua Movement) took 26 people hostage from a village near Freeport's mine. Armed mostly with spears and arrows, the guerrillas eluded the Indonesian military (ABRI) for the next four months, hiding in the dense rainforest with which they are intimately familiar. All of the hostages were connected to the Lorentz Expedition Team 1995, a Worldwide Fund for Nature project, doing biological research for the proposed Lorentz National Park in the Freeport concession area.

Because seven of the hostages were European, worldwide attention was soon focused on the kidnapping. For the first time since Indonesia's "annexation" of West Papua in 1963, the international news media took a critical look at conditions in the country. Newspapers around the world suddenly printed stories about ABRI's human rights abuses, as well as the devastation caused by Freeport's mine. In a list of grievances presented by the OPM to Catholic intermediaries, the annexation of traditional lands for mining figured prominently.

By early February, thirteen of the hostages had been released and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stepped into the role of negotiator. This allowed the hostages to receive food, clothing, and medical attention, and the ability to send messages to their families. The OPM cooperated in this endeavor, and the released hostages said they had been treated well by their captors.

By March, two more hostages were released. The eleven remaining, however, spent the rest of their captivity on the run, eluding the steady buildup of ABRI forces, who set up command at Timika, Freeport's company town. As ABRI conducted search operations, reports of abuses became more common. In one instance, three young boys were killed by a grenade placed in a stack of food left by soldiers who fled the village after raping a young girl.

In April, negotiations became less fruitful, and an apparent conflict within the OPM leadership hampered efforts to release the hostages. After a failed negotiated release on May 8, the ICRC withdrew from their mediation attempts, and by the next day, a full military mission to rescue the

Kelly Kwalik: Sketch of a Rebel

Ever since the western half of New Guinea was annexed by Indonesia, indigenous people have struggled for autonomy and an end to the murderous rule of Indonesia's dictator Suharto. Indonesia's open door policy to multinationals involved in resource extraction has led to disastrous consequences for local tribespeople. The OPM (Organisasi Papua Merdeka) has been the loudest voice in the movement for a sovereign West Papua. While many West Papuans support independence, few will admit to supporting the militant OPM, because to do so would be to invite the abuses of ABRI, Indonesia's bloodthirsty military.

Kelly Kwalik is a member of the Amungme tribe, one of the groups most impacted by Freeport's mine. A former schoolteacher, Kwalik joined the OPM in the early 1970's. He led the attack on Freeport in 1977, where the OPM stole dynamite from Freeport to blow up the pipelines which carried the copper ore. This daring raid was followed by tragedy, as the military retaliated with "Operation Annihilation," destroying three villages and leaving thousands dead. This pattern of military retaliation against his tribespeople has followed Kwalik throughout his time with the OPM.

Kwalik became the main leader of the OPM in West Papua, with Daniel Kogoya, a Nduga tribesman, Matthias Wenda, a Dani, and Thaddeus Yogi, an Ekari, serving as his commanding officers.

Freeport has often been the focus of Kwalik's actions. In 1994 and 1995, he raised the Papuan flag near the Freeport mine. The military responded to these innocent demonstrations with massacres and torture of local villagers, including the murders of four of Kwalik's family members in 1995.

The taking of the twenty-six hostages in January of 1995 has been the pinnacle of Kelly Kwalik's career as a guerilla. The international attention drawn by the kidnapping to the West Papuan separatist struggle may have also contributed to the rebellious atmosphere that precipitated the March riots by thousands of villagers against Freeport this year.

Although Kelly Kwalik asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to mediate the hostage situation, it became obvious that

WEST PAPUANS RIOT, CAUSING MILLIONS IN DAMAGES TO FREEPORT

Thousands of West Papuans armed with sticks, rocks, spears and arrows rioted March 10-13 in Tembagapura and Timika, West Papua, destroying Freeport computers, vehicles, files, and laboratory equipment, and damaging buildings and other Freeport facilities. This forced the closure of the mine for two days. The rebellion was precipitated when a Dani tribesman was run down by a Freeport vehicle, and mistaken news spread that he had been killed. The mobs also attacked the local airport, anticipating the arrival of Freeport CEO Jim Bob Moffett.

The roots of this riot go much deeper than a traffic incident. West Papuans have suffered all manner of intolerable abuses at the hands of Freeport security and the Indonesian military which protects the mine from the indigenous peoples impacted by it. Rape, imprisonment, disappearances, torture, and murder have been the fate of many natives suspected of supporting independence for West Papua. Many of these abuses have taken place on Freeport property or in Freeport facilities.

Freeport is the logical target for West Papuans who oppose Indonesia's brutal rule. The Indonesian government will take in \$480 million in royalties and taxes paid by Freeport this year.

Freeport's mining operations have displaced natives, desecrated their sacred mountains, and disrupted traditional cultures and family structures. "A spokesperson for the Amungme, Komoro, Dani, and Moni tribes of the region addressed the Freeport CEO [Jim Bob Moffett] directly: 'You and your workers live in luxury on our property. We, who own the property, sleep on rubbish. Therefore, from today, we don't give you permission for this company, and close it.'" (Eyal Press, *Progressive Magazine*, June 1996)

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 4

Kwalik

continued from page 3

his demands were not negotiable. When other OPM leaders had arranged for release of the hostages on International Red Cross Day, May 8th, Kwalik appeared and said that the release could only be made after the recognition of a free West Papua. His unwillingness to compromise led to the ICRC discontinuing their mediation, followed within hours by a military rescue operation in which two of the hostages were left dead, the remainder were freed, the village of Geselama was massacred by the military, and at least eight OPM fighters were killed.

Kelly Kwalik is thought to have escaped, but the military has vowed to capture him at all costs. He may already be dead. Few observers believe that the military will hesitate to torture and kill innocent villagers in their mission. However, like the Zapatista rebels in our own hemisphere, freedom fighters in West Papua are no strangers to life as outlaws in the wilderness.

Hostages

continued from page 3

hostages began. Fleeing the village of Geselama on May 9, the hostages heard gunfire and explosions as ABRI helicopters landed in the village and opened fire on the inhabitants, killing at least seven. For the next six days, the hostages and their OPM guards remained on the run, often meeting whole villages fleeing the military's carnage.

The saga ended when the military caught up with the group on May 15. Tragically, during the scuffle, two of the hostages were murdered by an unknown assailant. Although most reports assume that this man was OPM, the hostages who witnessed the attack say they had never seen him before. Because military intelligence had been recruiting some local tribesmen to infiltrate the OPM, and because a few dead hostages would back up their claim that the OPM are terrorists, it seems likely that the murderer was acting on behest of the troops nearby. The only thing that is certain is that, unless independent observers make a large presence in the area soon, military reprisals are likely.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF PIGS: FAMOUS JIM BOB QUOTES

"I keep thinking about that guy on the cross. I tell myself, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

-on the people of Austin who opposed his Barton Creek development on June 7, 1990 (pantomiming Our Savior on the cross).

"We are thrusting a spear of economic development into the heartland of Irian Jaya."

-explaining the benefits the Grasberg mine brings to the island.

"I guarantee you this sombitch is glad we found a copper and gold mine...[Before Freeport arrived] the young man was raising vegetables or doing whatever on the mountain with his parents."

-showing a slide of a smiling Irianese youth in a bellhop uniform.

"I realize there is a lot of emotion, but we have done everything possible to protect the creek. We will categorically not pollute Barton Creek."

-promise to Austin city council made less than one year before a sewage effluent spill caused a three-mile long algae bloom in Barton Creek.

"We're going to mine all the way to New Orleans."

-on plans for further expansion of the Grasberg mine in Indonesia (recalled by Freeport mining engineer Vic Holm.)

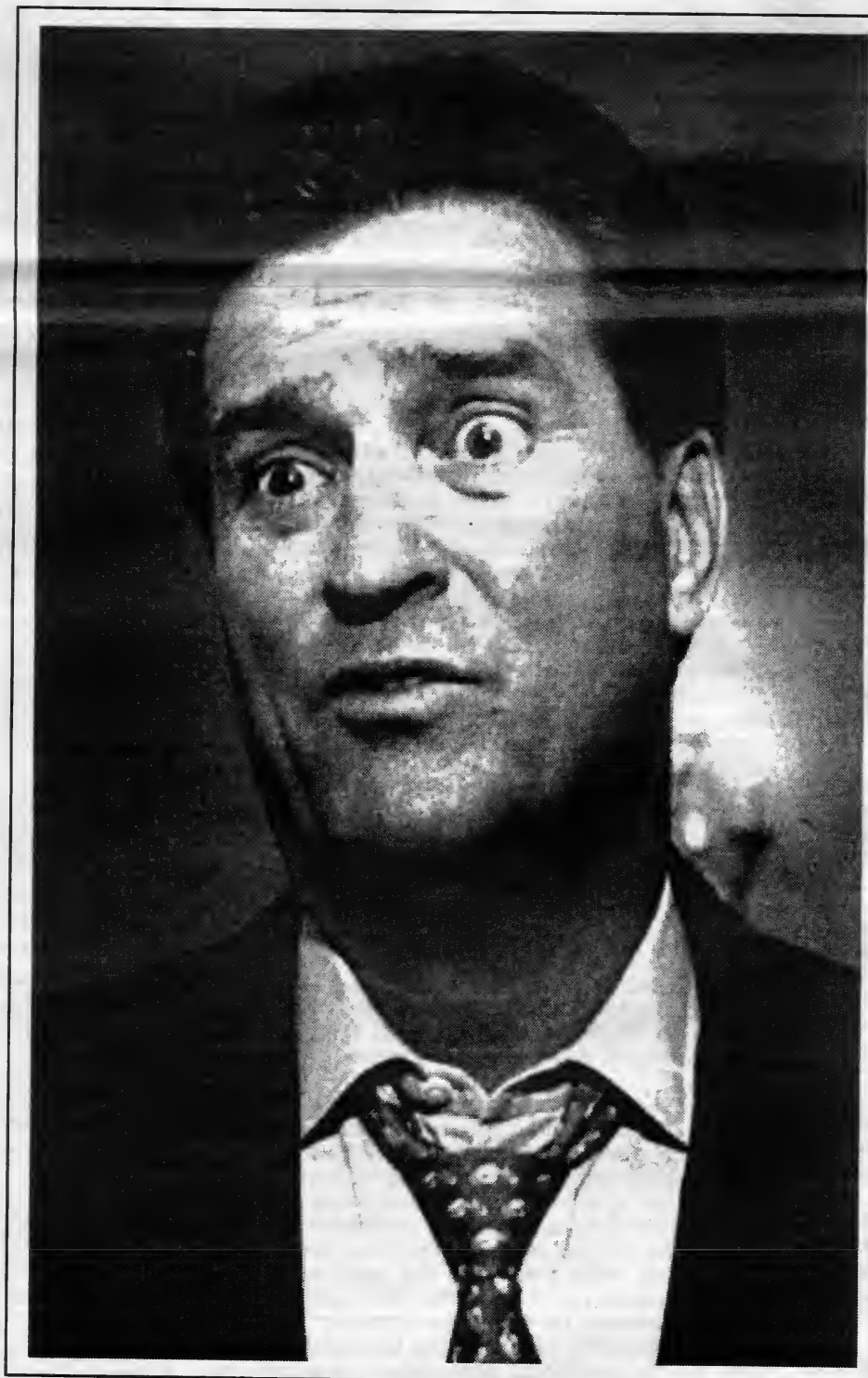


Photo by Alan Pogue, 1991

"I can assure you we receive better treatment in some foreign countries than we do here."

-on U.S. citizenry's attempts to hold Freeport accountable to the law.

"[It's] equivalent to me pissing in the Arafura Sea"

-referring to the pollution of the Ajikwa River with mine tailings.

"We find President Suharto to be a compassionate man."

-referring to the dictator of Indonesia who gained power by killing 500,000 on his home island of Java and later 200,000 more in East Timor.

"I graduated with the highest grades of any football player at the University of Texas."

-explaining his qualifications to order city officials around.

"You've got to be able to just goddamn know your instincts are right."

-explaining how CEO's function.

"This is not a job for us, it's a religion."

-describing Grasberg as the world's greatest mine.

This edition of the Blank Wall was produced by Earth First! Austin, P.O. Box 7292, Austin, TX 78713. Contributions very welcome. Writers, researchers, contributors, and editors include: Cedar Stevens, Dug Schoellkopf, Bill Medaille, Robert Singleton, Sharon Jenkins, John Dolley, Jim Demetras and Paul Garlinghouse.

Much of the information for this publication came to us by and through Carmel Budiarjo of Tapol. Up-to-date information on affairs in West Papua can be received by subscribing to <reg.westpapua@conf.gn.apc.org>. We would also like to thank Robert Bryce, Prattap Chatterjee, and Eyal Press, for their informative articles. For a ton of stuff on Freeport, especially relating to the Moffett build controversy at UT, look at Robert Boyers' web page <<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/boyer/fp/>>.

BY BILL MCCORMICK

In the same book, Paul Shepard maintains that "a junta of deconstructionist body-snatchers have invaded the skins of the planners, architects and tour businessmen who are selling fantasy as history, creating a million Disneylands and ever-bigger 'events.'" As if to prove this point, in his incredibly weird book, *America*, French theorist Jean Baudrillard claims that "Disneyland is a paradise," an "achieved utopia," and that "the latest fast-food outlet, the most banal suburb, the bland-

He goes on to say that the "same might be said of Orange County itself. Everything is well under con-

Perhaps the best known advocate of this sort of thing is Donna Haraway. In her trendily titled "Universal Donors in a Vampire Culture" she expostulates on the ideas she first made famous in her "Cyborg Manifesto," "In a world where the artificial and the natural have imploded, nature itself, both

Man is not adapted to live in a mirrored box, generating his own electric light and sending for selected images from outside when he needs them. Darkness and bad smell are all that can come from that. We need a vast world, and it must be a world that does not need us, a world constantly capable of surprising us, and it must be a world we did not program, since only such a world is the proper object of wonder.



MINERS TRY TO GET THE LEAD OUT (OF MISSOURI)

BY CHARLES PHILLIPS

From deep in the Big Springs Region of the Missouri Ozarks comes more bad news courtesy of the US Forest Service. The Eleven Point National Scenic River, one of America's first eight National

This area also provides excellent habitat for breeding populations of neotropical migrant songbirds. The Forest Service, state agencies and universities in six midwestern states have researched these bird populations for the last six years. Their research indicates that the Big Springs Region is one of the best breeding habitats in the eastern half of the US for neotropical migrant songbirds. The Big Springs region has been selected as a part of the United Nations' "Man in the Biosphere" Project.

The 12,753-acre Irish National Wilderness, designated in 1976, borders the Eleven Point on the north and east. The remoteness and wild characteristics of the Irish make it a favorite place of outdoor recreationists across the central US.

The Forest Service is proposing to cut five different timbersales (each between three and five million board feet) adjacent to the Irish Wilderness Area and

the Eleven Point National Scenic River. Even-aged cutting and roadbuilding dominate the plans for this area. The Eleven Point/Doniphan Ranger District is also proposing a three-million board foot sale adjacent to the Current River (Ozark National Scenic Riverways). It has become increasingly clear to local citizens and grassroots activists that the Forest Service does not care about maintaining wild characteristics of the land and are "caving into" the interests of the Missouri Forest Products Association and "local chapters" of People for the West! (a Wise Use organization funded by

timber and mining interests).

The Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club and three citizens (Ken Midkiff, Tom Kruzen and myself) filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service over the Reed Hollow timber sale on the grounds that the agency did not prepare an Environmental Assessment. On May 3rd, Judge Stephen Limbaugh (that's right, Rush's uncle) ruled in favor of the Forest Service, stating that "the discretionary language in the Salvage Rider is so broad that the Forest Service did not need to produce an Environmental Assessment."

The Doe Run Mining Company (formerly owned by Fluor and USX but now owned by Canadian "business interests") has applied for a permit to do exploratory drilling for "precious" metals (primarily lead) adjacent to the Eleven Point. In 1993, after a ten year battle, Doe Run was permitted 20 exploratory core drill holes between McCormack Lake and the Eleven Point. Doe Run completed six holes, went bankrupt and was bought by a holding company. The permit to explore was canceled in October because of Doe Run's inactivity. (The permit to be "scoped" sometime this summer is for lands east of these sites, between Highway 19 and Turner's Mill.)

Doe Run and Asarco, the two main lead-extracting corporados in Missouri, consistently receive the heaviest pollution fines in the state. Asarco recently agreed to pay a \$1.7 million settlement to the State of Missouri for a fish kill on the East Fork of the Black River.

Write to Terry Miller, District Ranger at the Eleven Point/Doniphan Ranger District, 1104 Walnut, Doniphan, MO 63935; (573) 996-2153. Express your outrage over their proposals and ask to be placed on the mailing list.

The Ozark Watch League (a Heartwood and Ouachita Watch League partner) is in need of money, postage stamps and computer equipment to continue the work of protecting all of the special places around the Ozark Mountain Bioregion. Please send contributions to the Ozark Watch League at 1407 Santa Fe Trail, Boonville, MO 65233; (816) 882-7813.



The Eleven Point National Scenic River, paradise on Earth

Wild and Scenic Rivers designated in 1968, is under threat of industrial logging and the return of lead exploration.

The Big Springs Region is home to the world's largest series of interconnected outlet springs, caves and sinkholes. The limestone karst geology, with its porous characteristics, makes these subterranean springs and their watersheds sensitive to human activity. The water runs cold and pure year round. It is home to a wealth of wildlife including black bear, bald eagle and several bat species.

SALVAGE HOAX EXPOSED IN MONTANA

BY THE NATIVE FOREST NETWORK

On Monday, May 13, as part "Salvage Hoax Action Week," organized by forest protection groups in the northern Rockies, local citizens and forest activists rallied at the Bozeman Federal Building to demand withdrawal of all so-called "salvage" timber sales on the Gallatin National Forest. Nearly 100 concerned locals showed up to express their support. Those gathered were particularly outraged over the Hyalite II timber sale. Speeches, leafleting, singing and dancing kept the crowd busy for the noon hour and helped increase local resistance to salvage logging on the Gallatin.

Throughout the week, numerous anti-salvage educational events, ranging from tours and overflights of timber sale areas to protest rallies and video showings, took place in Montana and a dozen other cities around the country.

Despite a wealth of evidence that our public forests and wildlife are suffering from too many roads and clearcuts, Congress, the Forest Service and the timber industry claim that more of the same will improve forest health. In truth, forest health is a giant hoax used to justify a massive increase in ancient forest logging. Any real forest health crisis is due to excessive logging and roadbuilding, overgrazing, mining and subdivisions.

The proposed Hyalite II salvage sale south of Bozeman, MT is in the Hyalite drainage. Hyalite happens to be the most popular recreation area in all of Forest Service's Region 1, and it's a proposed National Recreation Area. Hyalite is Bozeman's municipal watershed and has been roaded and logged in the past. The Forest Service has been trying to sell timber there since 1990 but has been stopped repeatedly by appeals and lawsuits.

Inquiries to the Forest Service about several other proposed salvage sales on the Gallatin indicate that

all salvage sales except the infamous Hyalite II sale have been put on hold. Hyalite II has become so controversial that chances are very good it will be withdrawn. Hundreds of letters in opposition to the logging have been written to the Forest Supervisor and at a recent public meeting, at least 90 percent of the comments opposed the sale. Salvage logging in the Hyalite drainage was recently the subject of a very critical editorial in the *Wall Street Journal*, and

has become a symbol of what is wrong with salvage logging and the Salvage Rider.

Preceding the rally, the Native Forest Network organized an overflight of the Hyalite area. A local pilot donated his services, his plane and his time for a flight which resulted in excellent footage of threatened and previously logged areas of the northern Gallatin Range.

Several people visited the offices of Senators Burns and Baucus after the rally to deliver a statement calling for withdrawal of the Gallatin salvage sales. We also met with a Forest Service official and delivered the same demand.

Media sources reported on May 16 that Hal Salwasser, Region 1 Forester, had asked forest supervisors to take another look at sales appealed and halted before the salvage rider passed, then re-offered as salvage under the rider. The Middle Fork sale on the Flathead National Forest and the Hyalite II sale were mentioned specifically. One article reported that "The regional forester spoke out in response to 'Salvage Hoax Action Week,' a series of protests organized around the region this week by the Missoula-based Native Forest Network." ABC's local lead story that night featured the protest and aerial footage of previous logging we had taken that morning.

On May 7, the Forest Service released the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hyalite II Timber sale. The "preferred alternative" (preferred by whom?) would log 4.6 million board feet from 671 acres and require 3.4 miles of new road and 6.9 miles of road reconstruction.

Please send your comments in opposition to the Hyalite II salvage sale to David P. Garber, Forest Supervisor at the Gallatin National Forest, POB 130, Bozeman, MT 59771. Send us copies of your letters! NFN Yellowstone, POB 6151, Bozeman, MT 59771; e-mail: nfn@igc.apc.org.



Sign at the entrance to Hyalite Canyon

Makah Whaling... Just the Beginning

BY SEA DEFENSE ALLIANCE

The tragedy of commercial whaling is getting set to play out again on the Pacific coast of North America. In May, 1995, the Makah Nation from the west coast of Washington state applied to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to kill five Gray whales, for sustenance and ceremonial purposes. The same week that they applied, thirteen bands on nearby Vancouver Island announced intentions to hunt whales as well.

Almost immediately a controversy arose as to what the motives and consequences of the proposed hunt would be. On the one hand, much of the environmental movement and general public suspected that this was a greed-motivated scheme that would eventually result in the large-scale commercial exploitation of yet another marine species. On the other, the Makah tribal council and its supporters claimed that it was a long overdue and necessary return to their traditional ways. Dan Greene, Makah Fisheries Director, cites the treaty of 1855 as guaranteeing the Makah whaling rights, including commercial rights to the whales, and claims that "the wealth from whaling was traditionally commercial."

A hundred years ago they would have been absolutely right. The Makah and other west coast bands did indeed hunt whales as an integral part of their culture and trade with interior bands. Hunting parties in canoes, armed with hand-held harpoons, would struggle to bring in whales. The whales were used for up to 80 percent of the tribe's food as well as to make tools. Hunting was done with immense respect for the whales—hunters would purify themselves through ritual for four years before daring to hunt the great leviathan.

The Makah last killed a whale in 1926. Needless to say a lot of bad things have happened since then. The traditional system of government is gone—replaced by European-imposed elected tribal councils. The old trade routes are gone—the new market for any "excess" whale will likely be Japan. The traditional hunt is gone—replaced with equipment recently purchased from Norway, such as modern whaling boats with explosive harpoons.

When the first chance in decades for the Makah to prepare gray whale meat came in July, 1995 (a gray whale was entangled in a salmon net and died), Makah elder Alberta Thompson said they

"didn't even know how to cut it up, and an Alaskan lady who lives here had to do it for them." She is against whaling. She doesn't think it can be considered a subsistence hunt since the tribe has survived for years without whale meat. "A lot of the people didn't want it. Whale meat is something you have to acquire a taste for. Whale meat as soon as it is caught has a foul odor," she said. Another



Sick or dying grey whales often enter shallow water to rest. This grey whale was weakened after it became entangled in a fishing net. Since grey whales sink when they die, it's a safe guess that it became stranded while it was still alive.

tribal elder, 79 year-old Hildred Ides, said, "I've never eaten whale, and I'm not going to start now."

Alberta Thompson also said that, "A lot of them [the Makah people] didn't cook their meat or anything, they just put it in the dumpster. The people who pick up the trash said that it was a terrible week because of the stink."

"It is our right to whale hunt traditionally, but that is not what's happening. Nothing is being done to prepare for whaling. Spiritual training takes a minimum of one year in preparations, that's not even going into the water. Hunters must lead a clean life of prayer and fasting alone. If they (the proposed hunters) meant business, they would be in training. They are not, nor are they getting any canoes or harpoons ready."

In an opinion poll at a council meeting, 76 people voted for hunting and 28 opposed it (turnout was low). According to Thompson the question was written in a way that would make most people agree that they should be allowed to treaty rights, and that most of the Makah people not related to the Tribal Council are opposed to the hunt.

US support for the Makah request could create a third category of whaling (in addition to aboriginal subsistence and commercial). A number of nations contend that their strong historical ties to whaling entitles them to hunt whales regardless of the existing moratorium. These nation argue that they have a cultural need for hunting whales. Whale hunting was a part of the culture of some of these countries as late as the 1980s. The Makah have not hunted whales for 70 years. If cultural heritage becomes the only requirement for an aboriginal subsistence quota, several nations would be able to qualify and thus circumvent the moratorium. US backing of the Makah's application could undermine opposition to outlaw whaling conducted by such countries as Norway, Iceland, and Japan.

For years, Japan has vigorously pressed its request for 50 minke whales, basing its claim on a long-standing whaling tradition and the cultural needs of its coastal communities. The IWC has consistently denied this request because Japanese coastal whaling is obviously commercial in nature. However, at the 47th Annual Meeting, the IWC adopted "Resolution on Japanese Community-Based Whaling" which indirectly supports Japan's contention that its community-based whaling is not commercial. Accepting the US proposal would clear the way for Japan and other countries

to obtain a similar type of allocation for their coastal communities and create a de facto third IWC category of whaling—cultural coastal—without officially repealing the existing moratorium.

In the May 5, 1995, Makah Indian Tribe Whaling Proposal, Herbert Markishtum clearly states that the Makahs continue "to strongly believe that we have a right under the Treaty of Neah Bay to harvest whales not only for ceremonial and subsistence, but also for commercial purposes... Our decision to seek IWC approval for an interim ceremonial and subsistence harvest only should not be construed in any way as a waiver or relinquishment of our treaty-secured whaling rights."

Makah fisheries manager Dave Sones noted that "the value of whales on the Asian market is huge... estimated at a half-million dollars... the tribe hopes in the future to do some commercial whaling." Andrea Alexander, the tribe's general manager, commenting on the proposed gray whale hunt, said, "It would be nice if it could be an economic endeavor." In March, the Makah tribal council submitted to the US government a signed agreement not to use any of the whale products taken from their proposed aboriginal subsistence hunt for commercial purposes for a period of four years. However, it seems clear that the Makahs intend to go to commercial whaling in the near future.

From June 28 to July 3, 1996, the IWC will hold its annual meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland. The IWC, a body designed to regulate the killing of whales, will likely approve the hunt. The response to this initial hunt will go a long way toward determining whether other bands will start whaling. It doesn't promise to be easy or fun. Any opposition to the hunt will be portrayed as urban white folk maliciously interfering in the well intentioned attempts of the Makah to regain their culture.

The Sea Defense Alliance (SeDnA) respectfully suggests that this is more about economics than restoring Makah tradition. The main beneficiaries of the hunt will be the tribal council leaders and not the Makah people. SeDnA has no wish to alienate First Nations, but if this commercial hunt goes ahead, we will resist it.

SeDnA is a direct action marine conservation group dedicated to the protection of marine life and coastal ecosystems. For more information contact SeDnA at POB 67121, Scotts Valley, CA 95067.

Sea Shepherd Scuttles Another Whaler!

BY THE SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

On the evening of May 3, 1996, anti-whaling activists removed the intake valve of the Norwegian whaler *Elin-Toril*, flooding her engine room and causing extensive mechanical and electrical damage. In the early morning of May 4, Captain Finn-Egil Odinsen discovered the flooded engine room and prevented the boat from sinking.

The *Elin-Toril* was moored close to the *Nybraena*, the resurrected outlaw whaler sunk by Sea Shepherd activists Paul Watson, Lisa Distefano and Dwight Worker in 1992. Sea Shepherd activists also scuttled the *Senet* in 1994.

Since 1992, Sea Shepherd has lead efforts to oppose Norway's unlawful whaling activities, citing the United Nations World Charter for Nature as its authority to intervene. Norway has raised it's illegal quota to 425 Minke whales for

the summer of 1996. The Charter states that individuals and organizations can uphold international conservation regulations.

The recent action in Norway was the enforcement of International Whaling Commission regulations in accordance with Section 21(e) of the Charter for Nature, according to the Sea Shepherd Society.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society remains committed to keeping marine insurance premiums and security costs on Norwegian vessels as high as possible. Insurance companies are now demanding combat insurance payments on all whaling vessels in Norway.

Flooding the engine compartment is considered as effective as actually sinking the vessel. Once flooded, the engines and electrical systems have to be overhauled.

JOURNEY TO CHIAPAS' SELVA LACANDON

BY ORIN LANGELE

A contingent of folks representing the Native Forest Network went to Chiapas, Mexico on a research expedition in March and April of this year. The following are some observations of that journey into one of North America's last remaining tropical rainforests.

Our vehicle was in the middle of a dusty caravan on the road to the rebel stronghold of La Realidad (The Reality) when the moon rose above the jungle and then disappeared in total eclipse.

We were stopped at an immigration checkpoint and forced to show passports and visas to Mexican officials who proudly wore pins claiming that they were graduates of US Border Patrol School. This was not as tedious as last week, when we drove through eight military checkpoints on our journey to the Monte Azules Biosphere Reserve in the Selva Lacandon.

From my vantage point in our vehicle I couldn't see the Comet Hyakutake, but knew it was somewhere above. I also knew that below us jaguars, howler monkeys and scorpions dwelled—as well as Zapatistas and Mexican military troops.

We were invited to the 1st Encuentro (Encounter) of the Americas by Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos who called this "a gathering of lunatics." Surely we were a bit touched as is anyone in this day and age who believes there is a better way to exist on earth than in the vise grip of the current ideology of present day capitalism: neoliberalism. Neoliberalism's principle objective is to maximize profits for private corporations and businesses, without concern for environmental or social needs. The United States is one of the key players in that game.

Two of neoliberalism's crowning achievements are the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which effectively globalize capitalism and remove trade barriers such as environmental or workers' rights regulations. These agreements effectively take local control away from the people and give it over to multinational corporations.

On January 1, 1994 (the day NAFTA went into effect), many of the indigenous people in Chiapas rebelled under the banner of the Zapatista Army for National Liberation (EZLN). However, it is important to remember that the struggle began with the European invasion over 500 years ago. The stakes are high, as they always are when people try to control their own destinies. In this world of dwindling natural resources the questions of, "Who controls the land and what is it used for?" become increasingly critical.

The Mexican Military (courtesy Uncle Sam)

The first thing I noticed as our plane touched down in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas, was the Mexican military in camouflaged bunkers along the airstrip. The military is everywhere in Chiapas. Mexico's entire military is estimated at 200,000 troops, of which 60,000 are stationed in Chiapas. They are not there to defend against foreign invaders. They are there to keep the people subjugated and protect global financial interests.

It was reported in the mainstream news last year that President Clinton sent down a bail-out loan to the Mexican government for \$20 billion. Not reported was the tremendous amount of armament and other military assistance either given or sold to Mexico. The Mexican daily, *La Jornada*, reported on May 17 that from 1989 to present, Mexico bought 7,148 personnel transport armored vehicles from the US. In addition, the US Pentagon has agreed to give 73 UH-1H Huey helicopters to the Mexican Airforce to be used principally (but not exclusively) for "anti-drug activities."

From 1983-95 approximately 725 Mexican military officers have been trained in the US in such places as the infamous School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. Much of the assistance and training has come under the label "Drug War," which is ironic because studies have indicated that the Mexican military is



The Selva Lacandon

heavily linked to the narcotics trade.

Throughout our journey we heard many rumors of US military advisors operating in Chiapas. In an interview in the rebel village of La Realidad, Peter Lumsdaine of Global Exchange said, "I'm pretty convinced myself that there are actually some teams of [US] special forces soldiers operating in Mexico..."

The Rebels

One of the first towns in rebel territory we visited was Francisco Gomez (formally La Garucha). No ski masks, just faces. The men were in a tin-roofed, open-walled building, one of four Centers of Resistance in the Zapatista autonomous areas. They were learning dental hygiene. The women were in another building discussing reproductive health. Tensions were high: The week before, three campesinos and two police were killed during a governmental eviction of land squatters in the nearby village of Nicolas Ruiz.

Last February, the whole town of La Garucha fled into the mountainous jungle when the military invaded the area. Some of the same men who are now brushing their teeth and the women who are educating themselves about their bodies were drinking their own urine to survive last year as they hid out. Some died in the jungle during that invasion.

Our group and the children, women, men, dogs, chickens and pigs of the village went to sleep that night with 12 tanks pointed at the village from the Mexican military encampment two kilometers away.

The next morning we took a tour. To get to the

cornfield one has to go past the military camp. There is a helicopter landing pad outside the camp's perimeter. We were told by our guide not to stray: land mines. The village women are afraid to bathe or do laundry in the stream. The eyes of the Mexican military are on everyone, especially the women. Rape is another form of the warfare being waged against local people.

The Land

Chiapas is diverse—cool dry highlands, flat depressions, the mountains of the Sierra Madre De Chiapas, and the Selva Lacandon, one of North America's last remaining tropical rainforests.

The Selva Lacandon is part of a larger rainforest ecosystem that extends through Guatemala and into Belize. This entire ecosystem is the second largest in the Americas; second only to the Amazon Basin. It comprises only four percent of Mexico's land mass, yet holds over one-third of its bird species, 25 percent of its mammals and 77 percent of its amphibians and reptiles. It is an important habitat for a number of endangered species including tapir, jaguar, ocelot, spider and howler monkeys, and the white tortoise.

For the past couple of years it has been speculated that oil under the Selva Lacandon may be one of the key reasons for the government's attempt to suppress the rebellion. But another resource found in the Selva, natural gas, may be considered even more precious, due to the fact that Mexico is committed to natural gas conversion by 1998.

Anthropologist Dr. Ronald Nigh, who has lived in Chiapas for the last 28 years, reports that the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank recently announced it will promote plantations of rubber, oil palm, and bamboo in the Chiapas rainforest. "Schemes like these," says Nigh, "conjure up visions of a future Lacandon Rainforest converted into a dismal concentration camp, tended by the army, where jungle has been replaced by monoculture plantations and free men and women have become prisoners of yet another system to remove their resources and wealth and leave them at the lowest rungs of society."

The Selva Lacandon is being totally enclosed by a road, paved as quickly as possible for easier access to the region. With this new road some social services may trickle down to the communities on the frontier, but the cost will be more armored personal carriers and an infrastructure that will allow oil, gas, rubber, bamboo and timber extraction, and with it, the annihilation of the rainforest and its inhabitants.

Melissa Burch helped research this article. Special thanks to the EFL Direct Action Fund for the use of their video camera. Orin Langelles works for the Native Forest Network's Eastern North American Resource Center. A full written report concerning the NFN's documentary trip

to Chiapas and a video will be produced shortly. For further information or to make a donation, contact the NFN at POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571, fax (802) 863-2532; e-mail: nfnena@igc.apc.org

EZLN ISSUES ALERT

The EZLN issued an alert in May stating that they would not go back to the negotiating table in June due to the sentencing of three political prisoners accused of being Zapatistas. Two of the three, including journalist Javier Elorriaga, have been released. At least 15 other prisoners accused of being Zapatistas have been held for over a year without a trial.

If the EZLN does not go back to the negotiating table, the Mexican government may resume an overt war. The situation in Chiapas is still extremely tense.

For further information please contact the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico, USA at 601 N. Cotton Street, #A103, El Paso, TX 79902; phone/fax (915) 532-8382; e-mail: moonlight@igc.apc.org



Commandante Tacho of the EZLN (Zapatista Army of National Liberation)

Photos by Langelles/NFN

BEAR WATCH ATTACKED, CONT....

continued from page 1

windows and climbing on our hood. Across the lot we see another Bear Watch vehicle with a lone occupant filming the attacks. Every now and then a plaid boy or three hassles that car while we yell at them to leave him alone.

We've been sitting in the RCMP parking lot for over an hour, honking our horn and yelling at nearby residents to call 911. The cops do not care.

We never guessed the spring bear hunting season would turn out like this. The campaign began in early April, when activists meticulously gathered and analyzed information on the outfitters. The research paid off when, on May 4, we got our first opportunity to sabotage a hunt. Two cars, each containing three Bear Watch activists, painstakingly followed three guides and a hunter into a maze of logging roads.

When we witnessed the bow hunter spot a bear and attempt a kill we dashed from our cars, voices loud and air horns blowing. The big bruin ran away to live another day while the hunters skulked off in search of another victim. We again followed as they tried to hunt, blasting air horns and chasing the hunters back into their trucks. Six people were cited and ticketed the following day for interfering with a legal hunt. It will probably be at least a year before the court decides our fate.

From then on the action grew more exciting. We held numerous public demonstrations to greet each new group of hunters arriving at the local airport. We made elaborate attempts to legally film bears being slaughtered.

Last year very similar tactics by Bear Watch activists drove David Fyfe, the guide outfitter for Zarco Wildlife, to tears on a national television news show. He has since stopped spring black bear hunting in his zone. Unfortunately, he still owns the rights to outfit and guide big game hunts in his territory and plans to resume bear hunting next spring.

The target of this year's campaign was Don Rose, a retired Miami, Florida, antique dealer and owner of Trophy West Guide Outfitting. Trophy West is an international big game trophy hunting company that specializes in black bear, grizzly bear, mountain lion and Roosevelt elk hunts.

Our tactics were working well on Trophy West. Recently, a client of Don Rose told Bear Watch that he would not have come to the island if he had known how much resistance he would face. Apparently, we had a profound effects on the guides and outfitters as well. Three weeks before the end of the hunting season their taunts and threats turned to violence.

On May 24, we climbed out of our sleeping bags at an obscene hour, donned our sab uniforms and air horns and headed into the labyrinth of logging roads in search of bear murderers. We decided to split up our three vehicles in order to search the largest area. We spotted a known guide vehicle and pursued it. As soon as the hunters realized they were being followed they made every attempt to run us off the road. They stopped and a face-off ensued. Don Rose became agitated and struck an activist by opening and shutting the door of his vehicle three times into the man's body and punching him in the shoulder. Rose and his guides then threatened us, insisting that we would lose all our equipment the next afternoon.

The next day, three female Bear Watch activists spotted a guide vehicle with a guide and a hunter inside. Behind the car was Don Rose in his well-known white pickup. Buzzing with the excitement of possibly witnessing a hunt, we decided to follow. Tricky maneuvering and a high speed highway chase put us between the guide vehicle and Rose's truck. If we allowed the vehicles to stay together Rose would block us, keeping us from sabotaging a hunt. The guide vehicle led us far from the usual hunting area onto a narrow, gravel logging road. Nervous giggles and macho bravado permeated the car as we reran the threats from the day before in our sleep deprived minds. Despite the imminent threat of trouble, our group reaffirmed its decision to stay with the guide and thwart the hunt. The risk of a successful bear kill outweighed the risk of what we underestimated as, at

most, another verbal confrontation.

We turned a sharp corner. In front of us two pickups sat nose to nose with just enough room for the guide truck to pull through. After it passed, they closed the gap, effectively blocking further travel.

Rose pulled up tightly against our back bumper. He sauntered out of his truck carrying an ax handle and walked around to the front of our vehicle. A guy from one of the trucks picked up a large rock and the two of them, faces distorted with anger, lunged at the front hood of the car. We knew at that moment that our lives were in danger.

The rock-wielding man lurched to the passenger side of the car, trying to open the doors. My eyes met Don's. By now, we knew each other rather well. All our heated encounters and toe-to-toe yelling matches from the previous weeks seemed to swim to the surface of Rose's wrinkled eyes. Fury, unbound and uncontrolled, pushed him to climb onto the hood of the car in a futile attempt to launch his large frame through our open sun roof.

Slamming the car into reverse we tried to retreat. Rose, struggling to maintain his tenuous hold on the hood, raised his right hand, ax handle and all, and began smashing our windshield. Glass peppered our faces, heads, arms and legs. Slivers flew into the back seat as we tried desperately to buck Rose off the hood. Luckily the windshield was strong and Don's jeans were slippery. He slid off the front of the hood and landed directly in front of the car. We pulled forward, backed up, pulled forward and back again, finally maneuvering ourselves out of Trophy West's trap. Then we roared down the road away from the attack.

That's why we are at the RCMP station now: attempting to file a complaint against Don Rose. He is across the lot looking old and yet oddly confident. He knows the police have been paid well and are on his side. The men in plaid surrounding our car are irate. Some are guides, some are outfitters, others are hunters, some are just testosterone-laden logger goons. They have followed us here because we are



Outfitter Don Rose taking an ax handle to the windshield of a Bear Watch vehicle

Bear Watchers and this spring's bear hunting season has been very difficult for them. We have followed them and frightened them, frazzling their nerves. Our nonviolent activities have hurt them, but not nearly as badly as they've hurt British Colombian bears and the ecosystems that require them. They do not understand that we will not stop fighting for bears just because they can come up with nothing more creative than violence.

The window smashing incident brought us tremendously positive media attention, including five full minutes of our video showing the attacks. It aired three times during the provincial election day news. Bear Watch is stronger now than ever before. We know their patterns and our limitations. We have vast amounts of community support, and even though we hear stories of guide outfitter meetings and an organized anti-Bear Watch posse, we have even greater ideas for next year. See ya here in '97.

Please contact Trophy West Guide Outfitters [POB 77, Campbell River, BC, Canada V9W 4Z9; (604) 287-2892] and tell them what you think of trophy hunting. For more information about Bear Watch contact them at 1850 Commercial Dr., Box 21598, Vancouver, BC V5N 4A0 Canada; (800) 836-5501, fax (604) 873-4801; e-mail: bearwtch@helix.net; website: <http://www.helix.net/~bearwtch/>

The Fund for Wild Nature: A Foundation by and for the Grassroots

BY LORIN LINDER AND DAVE PARKS

Several articles in the last issue (Beltane) of the *Earth First! Journal* dealing with foundation funding reminded us that it is time to give you an update on the Fund for Wild Nature (the Fund). Beginning as the Earth First! Foundation, the Fund was created to provide monetary support for the preservation of biodiversity, grassroots activism, and the integrity of natural ecosystems. The Fund has been developed and nurtured by grassroots activists and has historically funded no-compromise grassroots campaigns.

Four times a year the Fund accepts grant proposals from individual activists and groups throughout North America. We see a particular need to fund those projects that other, more mainstream foundations may not fund, and to provide a relatively quick response to fast-changing situations.

The Fund is able to give monetary awards because we receive donations and grants which we then turn over to the grassroots. As *EF! Journal* readers may know, funding is becoming more complex for "flow-through" grants from foundations. It is through private donations that we hope to continue and expand our work. The Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt foundation and we gratefully accept, and quickly turn over, your donations of any amount.

Lately, we have been distributing a total of \$15-20,000 at each quarterly meeting. Most grants are within the \$1,000 range per project. Groups and campaigns receiving Fund support this year include the Predator Project, the Native Forest Network, Central Appalachian Biodiversity Project, Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project, Ranching Task Force, Seeds of Peace, and Sinapu. The Fund greatly appreciates having our support acknowledged in project publications and newsletters as this helps with name recognition and fund raising efforts.

Annually, the Fund gives a \$1,000 Deep Ecology Award for outstanding activism. The 1995 award went to Judi Bari in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments. Some previous winners have been Jasper Carlton, Karen Pickett, John Seed, Jan Wilder-Thomas and Darryl Cherney. The Fund welcomes submissions of nominees for this year's award.

Currently, we are looking for additional board members, in particular, experienced fundraisers. If you want to apply for funding, our guidelines and grant application procedures are brief and uncomplicated. For more information or our Annual Reports, contact our office at Fund for Wild Nature, POB 1657, Corvallis, OR 97339; (541) 757-1780.

BAREFOOT OR BOOTED: ABOUT ACTIVISM

Friends and Relatives,

Just writing to commend all my fellow warriors for the many brave battles you engage in to protect our sacred Mother Earth. Your strength and resistance to the destructive forces that plague our homelands provide me with tremendous solace as I wait behind bars for the honor to rejoin you in the struggle. I also want to share some words and feelings about media and public perceptions of those defending wilderness and all the life that calls her home.

The last issue of the *EF! Journal* represented to me our current stance in the fight to protect what little wilderness remains against the global corporate interests that seem intent on destroying wild earth at all costs. And I don't believe many can say more wilderness would be preserved had we been properly attired in the clothes of our opposition. Its not our appearance that should concern us most, but our actions.

Our greatest strength is that we represent life, not death. It is our opposition who are frequently prone to violence. While our own deeds result not in the loss of life, but its preservation, our well-dressed opposition's power structure is built on the blood and bones of others. Manicured appearance is an illusion society breeds to camouflage the true actions of those with the most blood on their hands. Shattering those illusions with greater emphasis on one's actions rather than one's appearance is a goal that becomes side-tracked as long as we believe we might achieve wider support if we mirrored the appearance of the institutions whose actions we oppose.

It's easy in our desperation to look at some of our allies and criticize them for dressing or looking different, and saying that somehow their "radicalness" impedes us. But isn't diversity what it's all about? With Earth as our teacher, shouldn't we model ourselves after the biological diversity that we fight to defend? I see the camo-clad monkeywrenchers and long-haired direct action warriors to be the wolves of our environmentalist eco-system. And just like their four-legged brethren, our opposition is always attempting to have us believe that without them, our environmentalist landscape would be a better, more effective place.

The more docile species, those who represent the Earth in a suit and tie, historically have been willing to compromise in order to achieve some victory or accomplishment. Those more docile species are not to be condemned for choosing their niche in the environmentalist ecosystem, but likewise they should not criticize those fiercer species whose goals are "not just crumbs from the table or their own loaf, but the whole f---ing wheat field" (to quote Chumbawamba).

Sure, victories are fewer and far between with this strategy, but now is not the time to compromise while we are in the position of weakness under the heels (patent leather loafers, not bare feet) of the timber barons. Though every form of fighting is needed right now, there sometimes exists a dangerous imbalance in our environmentalist ecosystem. Just as in wilderness, our diversity guarantees that no matter what the environmental condition, equilibrium is established by a variety of species and tactics. When one species overpopulates and goes beyond its carrying capacity, it tends to push out

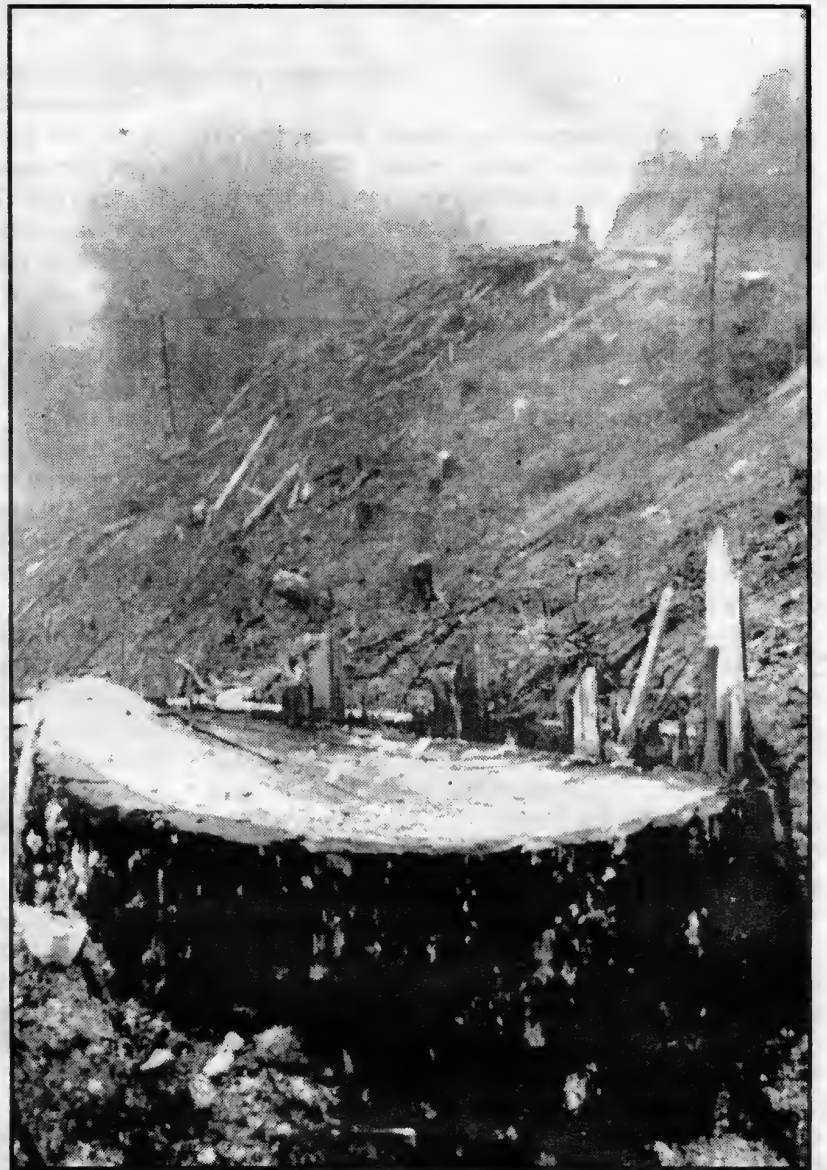
other beneficial species as well as cause irreparable damage to our habitat. As in any healthy ecosystem, we need in our ranks the docile and the fierce. One is not more valuable than the other, and both should freely interrelate, not condemning one another but working together to pose maximum resistance to the invader who threatens our existence by driving wedges between us.

From where I stand, I think we need a healthy wild population of wolves before it's too late and the whole thing collapses. Wolves. Two-legged and four-legged. We need camouflaged wolves, women wolves, dread-locked wolves and maybe most importantly red, brown, yellow, black and white wolves.

There is reason to be somewhat concerned with our media perception and how the general public perceives us. But what must be asked by each one of us is whether our public acceptance and approval should be a priority objective. After all, with over 70 percent of the American public calling themselves environmentalist, isn't that alone some proof of how little public acceptance and approval influences the real decision-makers, lawmakers, courts, legislators and Congress?

We must also admit that things are looking pretty grim for North American wilderness. Corporate influence on environmental law and legislation is at an all-time high thanks to political action committee (PAC) money and well financed lobbyist organizations. It's hard enough to keep up with back-room and under-the-table deals, let alone stop them. Economic interests in the conquest of Mother Earth and all her people has historically outweighed public concerns. The continued production and use of CFC's, fossil fuels, and toxic and radioactive waste is proof of that. Our governments care not about the Earth Mother's future generations, be they human or animal.

In the face of timber swaps and compromises for endangered species habitat (not to mention the all-out destruction of previously protected wilderness), Earth First! warriors and US citizens must remember that what we are fighting for are the meager remnants of North America's wildlands and wildlife. To think that the insatiable appetites of Weyerhaeuser, Georgia Pacific, MAXXAM, Champion, Stone Container and all their nasty little offspring will ever be satisfied as long as one island of wilderness still stands is living in denial. It's the law of supply and demand: As long as there is a supply, the timber giants will demand it be cut. It's the economics of extinction. The less marketable timber remaining (i.e. our wilderness), the more valuable it becomes. If that is exhausted, previously unmarketable timber (i.e. our protected wilderness) is transformed to millions of board feet timber sales.



An unbalanced ecosystem

It's a desperate situation my friends, and what we must ask ourselves is whether any compromise can be justified when what we are fighting for is the last two percent of American wilderness. They've destroyed the rest, now let us have what little is left. I give you these thoughts from the view behind these walls not to question or judge the path of any activist but because my heart is being ripped and shattered at the final destruction of our home. I now recognize the possible reality that our grandchildren might never marvel at an ancient old-growth tree or be lulled to sleep by the wolf's howl. If we lose these things we will lose something only our ancestors were able to discover: the power and freedom that only true wilderness and wildlife can bring. Godspeed and good blessings to you my friends and relatives as you continue your most honorable defense of our Mother Earth.

Incarceratedly Yours,

—ROD CORONADO

Rod is serving (since August, 1995) a 57-month sentence for aiding and abetting an arson (Animal Liberation Front laboratory raid), and theft and destruction of an historical artifact (a cavalryman's journal). For more information on Rod's case, see EF! Journal, Eostar, 1995. You can write to Rod at: Rod Coronado 03895-000, FCI Unit SW, 8901 S. Wilmot Rd., Tucson, AZ, 85706.

SOTS FOR WILDERNESS

continued from page 3

sons had been based on the event being publicized as alcohol-free. He left at first light, very displeased.

After enduring three summers at Cove/Mallard, I've come to appreciate the alcohol-free base camps of other campaigns. Yes, it is excruciatingly painful to be amidst destruction day in and day out. The pain accumulates, but does liquor wash it away? Booze just numbs that pain for a little while, dulling our passion and our clarity. Drinking is a temporary

holding pattern that takes you ever closer to crashing.

There, on the edge of the largest, wildest landscape in the lower 48, several activists were dangerously close to crashing last summer. A few activists were regularly drunk before dinner; a problem alcoholic was asked to take some time away; friends provided beer to someone else who desired to stay sober but has no self control. I think it's time we tried to take better care of ourselves. Behind the endless

flow of alcohol are a few individuals who don't have control. There are many more who appear to be choosing a self-destructive path. Am I supposed to remain silent while my friends use a bottle like a slow bullet to the head? Then there are those who drink because that's what they've always known. Meanwhile, our social skills atrophy and our so-called tribal bonds remain shallow.

To those of you who are new to Earth First!, please don't let this article make you anxious about getting involved. There are others who feel as I do and maybe we can more actively

challenge old assumptions about what it means to have a good time and be in solidarity with one another. Earth First! has evolved away from a flag-waving, good-old boy machismo. I'm sure the evolution will continue.

I hope this does not spur a debate on "the merits of alcohol." We have a lot of work to do. Let's acknowledge that alcohol can get in the way of this work and let's attempt to limit its influence on our lives. If we are approaching the end of the era of mammals and reptiles and amphibians, it seems disrespectful to always be getting drunk at Mother Nature's deathbed.

SINK IT!

Dedicated to David Howitt and Rod Coronado

Bash it and Bend it and Bust it and Break it
Scuttle it and Sink it most any way your can
Maybe we're just grains of sand
in their gears of destruction
but do it do it do it-if you can

If you can get aboard without being caught,
then you're over half the way there
Now hide yourself on the deck and wait it out,
to see if anyone comes
For if they have seen you and are coming to get you
better to go down for trespass-than sabotage

If no one comes, then break into the boat
Pick that lock or bust it free
cut it, or torch it, or pry it from its hinge
then get inside quickly, before anyone sees

Drop down into the engine room,
You may find another door locked
bust this one open just like the other
they can't see you now from the dock

Now you're surrounded by tons of machines, gauges, and pipe
the ultimate robot-man's dream
for those with only oil for blood
for those with only revving motors for a scream

Find the sea cock quickly,
it's where they let the salt water in,
to cool the engine, fight fires, wash decks or whatever
it's this valve we're gonna do in

First shut it off completely,
then take the handle off the valve stem
Then with a crescent or pipe wrench
disconnect the piping bolted to it,
Take it off completely, don't be in a rush
pull out all the studs and bolts until the pipe drops
Now it's wide open, just waiting to gush

Then put your pipe wrench on the valve stem
and open it as far as it can possibly go
and what do you see down below you?
Sea water EXPLODING all over the place in one intrushing flow!

But don't stop now
Pull on the pipe wrench as hard as you can
until you jam that valve wide open
then take your wrench and bash that valve stem hard
bend it, break it, jam it so it's locked open
with tons of sea water pouring thru it

Soon this valve will be under water
impossible for anyone to close by hand
Hey, your work is almost over,
Baby, this ship is about to hit the fan!

Now gather up all your tools and get out of the engine room
but before you close the door,
toss in a tear gas canister for good measure
Then put your own pad lock on that door

Now ease your tools into the harbor,
not with a splash, because they're as heavy as lead
I know it's a terrible waste to throw them away
but just try explaining those bolt cutters to a cop instead

Now get off the ship and release the mooring lines
then GTFO out of the harbor out of the city,
GTFO out of the country, GTFO out of this world
They'll be looking for you shortly
Remember, S-I-N-K SINK is a four-letter world

So, help that drift netter drift down to the bottom
Dump that toxi-dumping ship to its final burial grounds
Stick that harpoon up any boat that's been killing whales
After all, this is just recycling- on a grand scale

So Bash it and Bend it Bust it and Break it
Scuttle it and Sink it most any way you can
Maybe we're just grains of sand
in their gears of destruction
but do it do it do it-if you can
Do it do it do it-if you can

Dwight Worker



IT'S ALL IN THE RETELLING

"You know all those Coyote stories where Coyote Man
makes people out of his own excrement?"

(The little coyotes squirmed and giggled in their dusty
seats. "Ouuuuuu", they said.)

"Well," said Grandma Coyote to her wriggling audience,
"That's only PART of the story."

(She paused and looked them in the eyes, each one.)

"How would shit people last through the winter? One
good rain and Creation dissolved! Poor Old Coyote
Man didn't have any other way to make people. Excrement
and spit were all he could coax out of his body."

(The little coyotes giggled and nodded in agreement.
Coyote Grandmother sat up straight, as straight as she could
and looked down her long snout.)

"But Coyote Woman," she continued, "knew how to do things
right the first time."

"She made bones and skin and fur and bright eyes all inside
her. She was patient and made people slowly adding little
bits of them month by month until finally they were ready.
So one spring day Coyote Woman went out into the tall warm grass
and gave birth to all those people. And LOOK! They've
lasted all this time. Little hands, water-proof skin,
furry heads and they don't smell so bad."

Lauren Davis

Send poems to:
Warrior Poets Society
ASUC Box 361
Berkeley, CA
94720-4510



ARMED WITH VISIONS

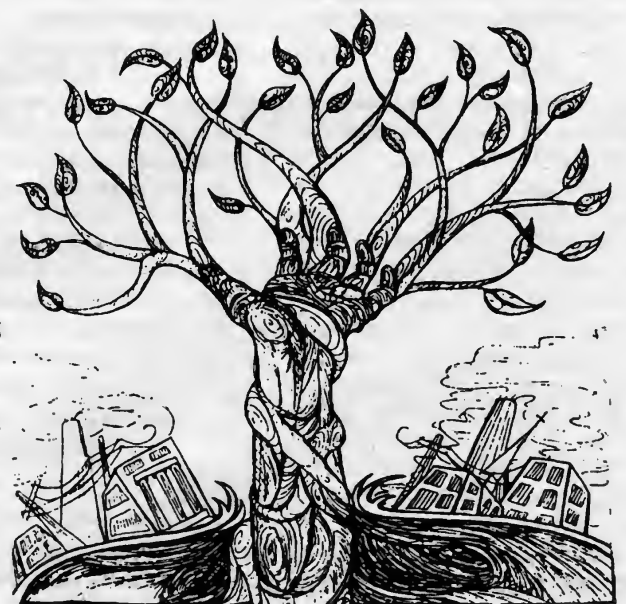
CLEAR AS CUT GLASS AND JUST AS DANGEROUS

FIRE TREE

-to the ancient semperviren-

Roots burned deep
still send life
through charred bark.
Blackened insides
do not sway
the flame colored tree
who has sung with
lightning and floods,
who has danced with
raging wind.
Hollow bodies
heated like ovens
stand ever green,
because even burning
the medicine of time
and wisdom,
the life of generations,
does not kill
what is determined
to grow and
survive.

Wren 11/95



ALL THE LETTERS YOU EVER WANTED, FROM

continued from page 3

To the Man w/o a Bioregion,
I'd like to thank you for shedding some reasonable light on the negative effects that the animal rights movement has on the whole environmental movement. As a canvasser for Clean Water Action I am tired of defending the movement against accusations that environmentalists do not like humans and only want to save every other species on the planet.

Yes, there are atrocities that are taking place against animals for no other reason than bad consumer habits and corporate greed. These are the practices that should be targeted and not the ones that would alienate our possible allies. Some of my close relatives are hunters, fishermen, and members of the NRA. They are also very supportive of the environmental issues that I talk about. The environmental movement has to stop bashing people over the heads with radical viewpoints, and start speaking to them as if they were a member of your own family. After all, we are one big family—the human species—living in one big house—the planet Earth.

—A CONCERNED ACTIVIST

Dear Editor:

Mike Roselle hits many nails on the head and misses a few in his discussion of the animal rights anti-fishing campaign.

He is right in intimating that we animal rights supporters aren't interested in ensuring that our grandchildren will still find enough yellow bellied sapsuckers to point a camera at or enough rainbow trout to fry under an old growth tree. It is true that we also don't give a hoot that future generations might be comforted, at some intellectual level, in the thought that the same number of species exist in 2050 as did in 1996. And we're not interested in helping create or preserve some Disneyland-like Earth Theme Park consisting of an arbitrary number of types of animals. Species come and go, but what matters to us is that the living, even of a wildly inflated species like homo sapiens, are not abused or slaughtered because someone thinks them too common, peculiar, stupid, slow or powerless to have interests worth considering.

No one who embraces the principle of fighting exploitation per se can champion any goal at the expense of those who can't defend themselves. "Wild" animals are indigenous peoples or, in the case of rainforest pigs, freed slaves or, in the case of ranched cows, slaves. That makes it a bit difficult to clap for "conservation" of "wildlife" when it amounts to the deployment of such sensitive management methods as "culling" of lover from lover, father from son, friend from friend.

Mike points out that politics sometimes makes for strange bed-fellows. We know that. Witness animal rights activists teaming up with Joe Sixpack Hunters to

ban leghold traps in areas where dogs are used to track "game." But as for encouraging fishing as "one of the few outdoor activities average citizens can enjoy without trashing the environment," isn't there a bigger issue? I mean, we're not talking about desperate people grubbing for a meal. What about the cruelty



inherent in such benign sounding entertainment? We can't ignore the fact that water-dwelling animals can suffer or pretend it is somehow right or necessary to cause previously-ignored animals violent deaths for a "sport."

Most people may never have thought of fish as cute enough or rare enough or understandable enough to protect from harm, but under the skin they are feeling, viable animals just as we are. It is only honest to point out to the "thinking animal" that the "lesser being" on that hook has a sensitive mouth (used much as we use our fingers); a delicate protective body coating (that is destroyed in 'catch and release' games); and that s/he writhes and suffocates and dies an extremely frightening hideous death for nothing more than a lack of thought on our part, a taste, and/or an afternoon's relaxation. We may not want to hear it, but we should be grown up enough to act responsibly when we do.

Finally, Mike, don't be "shocked" at animal rights activists adopting the "same tone and the same tactics as Operation Rescue." You'll find all of that at anti-logging and anti-dam demos! Yes, we all try to reason with big business and selfish interests, but in the end there would be no-one up a tree or cemented into a road if we believed reason alone will prevail. As for criticizing vegetarians for yelling "Murderers" at anti-butchered demos, if people in movements were always so detached, polite and unemotional that they never called out from their hearts, they might as well stay home.

Best wishes,

—INGRID E. NEWKIRK
VICE-PRESIDENT
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Dear Mr. Roselle,

Regarding your ridicule of PETA's anti-fishing efforts (Eostar '96), PETA's media kowtowing

may be silly, but their message makes sense. Ignorance, apathy and insensitivity are problems that affect the Earth in its entirety, the individual fish as well as the population of fish in a stream, and the trees on the bank. We can argue over what are "critical issues" and how to set priorities, but you will not convince me that fishing is harmless fun, or environmentally sound.

I could tell you of the hundreds of herons, egrets, Canada geese and other birds every year who lose a limb or die from starvation or infection after becoming entangled in lost or discarded fishing line; or of the hundreds of swans and loons who have been poisoned from ingesting lead fishing weights during feeding. But perhaps the greatest threat sport fishing poses to the environment is through the introduction of non-native fish. Because of fishing pressure (too many anglers, too few fish), and because anglers want different types of fish and in different environments than nature has supplied, state and federal fish and wildlife departments developed a hatchery system that annually stocks hundreds of millions of fish into lakes and rivers, often endangering native populations and always changing the balance of the local ecosystem. Native fish that played important roles in a ecosystem are removed as "undesirable" or as "trash" species, or whole lakes may be killed off so biologists can begin introducing the more desired game fish. There are hardly any waters in the US that have not been tampered with, and there is hardly a game fish that has not been genetically manipulated through artificial breeding, etc. Those bass you mentioned are doing so well? When a bass hybrid was introduced in New York, native brook trout were almost wiped out. Hatchery-raised salmon are destroying many naturally spawning salmon species in the Pacific Northwest. Another example, the introduction of rainbow and brown trout has severely damaged much of the West's native population of cut-throat trout.

Habitat loss and commercial overfishing are undoubtedly huge threats to native fish, but sportfishing's contributions must be recognized.

Sincerely,

—NICOLAS ATWOOD

Dear Stol for Braegen

The man may be without a bioregion, but he sure has a point. Greenpiss is headed down the tubes with Barb at the helm. I too, have former GP friends hoping against hope that the sinking ship can be saved, brought back on course. Yo, Barb! Get back to where you once belonged!

Indulge me for a moment will ya', I have four cases in point for each of the Four Directions:

1) The DC office? Get out of town by sunset.

2) GP won't get onboard the June 18-24 March for the Animals (everyone from Sea Shephard to the Doris Day Animal League is on deck, where the fuck is Greenpeace?).

3) GP refuses to support the Dolphin Protection Act of 1996, instead climbing in bed with dolphin killers and backing the backsliding Dolphin Death Bill (S. 1420).

4) GP has yet to make a public statement (much less, action) against Boston's Outfall Pipe project which threatens the last remaining endangered northern right whales and Ridley sea turtles.

(Notice these last two are "in the water" issues where GP cut its teeth long ago when we respected her.)

Enough of the gruesome details. I'm sure these pages will have degenerated into a piss n' moan session on GP. Can we salvage anything from Big Green? You bet! Prune it like any fruitful tree or ailing green relation. Perhaps if Barb backs-off from her \$60,000 salary and gets back in the trenches, does a little canvassing maybe and gets out from behind the Beltway, perhaps then the ship can be salvaged. Goddess knows there's plenty of morally challenged groups to roll around in the shit at ol' Foggy Bottom (remember what Grannie said: "If you lie in the dirt with the hogs, you get dirty").

Seriously, Barb, come on in, the water's fine! (Okay, so it isn't fine, but you could help to clean it up like in the old days.) Get out of the office, get the office out! If you're gonna "restructure" why stop at incremental adjustments? Strip that sucker down to its frame. Isn't lean and mean the name of the game?

There, I said it and I'm glad. Now, let's get back to work.

—OAK

Legislator Health Crisis

IT'S ALL A MISTAKE! There's a misprint in the Gorton-Dicks Salvage Rider. It calls for the harvesting of "all dicks susceptible to fire (sexual, I presume) or disease," including "the removal of associated dicks" in our legislature. Because Congress has some of the biggest dicks in America.

Help improve the health of our legislative body. Dicks are to be cut "to the maximum extent feasible... not withstanding any other provision of law."

- It's old growth!
- It's male!
- It's management!
- It's legal!



Dear Shit for Brains,

The following mail was recieved by an activist. Included in the mail were also various Sahara club and Barry Clausen-type "eco-terrorist" mis-information flyers. The quality of hate mail is sure going downhill!

To: [name deleted] gay faggot
Listen. Our motto is chose your target. We will protest at your private home and harass your neighbors. We will fix your car and compile a list of names from your mail list and give out info on your crimes to everyone all about the dirty dozen. We know

if you can do it, we will do it. OK? We oppose your use of paper and resoures and money.

If I ever find you in my way, I will ring you bell. No more INTERNET FOR YOU or HIT lists. You are sick and need god and will be sent to Hell. The earth is being killed by Earth First and it has an address. You are an idiot mother fucker stinking ass wipe cock sucker and I speak for all Americans (you are not an American and you know it) you don't belong here, leave. Your brain is dead. We outnumber you you know. I ride OHV's and don't like you telling me what to do. So, me and my riding partners (some are cops) are going to pay you a visit and talk to you. We will never give up. You will lose everything. God will strike you down. Not only do I belong to the Sahara Club, I belong the the B.R.C. and the N.R.A. We don't like you. Leave town. You are the joke of the world. My nephew hates you. My cat hates you. I report info to God thru the Sahara Club and you don't want them against you. God is on our side. You only have the devil. You were Ted's accomplice!! We will tell everyone, and lets see you prove us wrong. Can I ride over you with my dirt bike? I saw you on the video with all your gay friends in LA. See ya in the forest, or are you chicken shit? Even my pastor hates you. Thats pretty bad. You and Mr. Foreman will burn in Hell. I ride for your death by dirt bikers, MTN, bikers everywhere. I'm going riding in the desert tomorrow! See ya, asshole.

—???

Dear Letters to the Editors:

Thanx for running the Budweiser Bovine grazing article in the Eostar issue. My address for Anheuser-Busch boycott communications has changed once again. For anyone who is interested in helping organize a boycott of Anheuser-Busch products, send queries to the Golden Trout Wilderness Protection League, 1442 "A" Walnut St., Suite #240, Berkeley, CA 94709. With your ideas, energy and coordinated (or uncoordinated) organizing, we can face this corporate behemoth to moderate its destruction of one of the flagship wilderness areas in the Sierra Nevada. Maybe we can even stop the destruction altogether.

For the wild,

—TODD SHUMAN

To the editors:

Shalom, good people.

I have spent the past month in the Black Mesa Area of northeast Arizona, supporting traditional Dineh people resisting relocation and fighting Peabody Coal Company. The traditionals still living on their inherited ancestral land now labeled "Hopi Partition Land" are being told that if they don't sign their land off to a lease "agreement" before January '97, they will have three years to relocate.

With stepped-up harassment from the non-traditional, Euro-puppet, Hopi Tribal Government, Dineh elders need our help more than ever. We aim to have supporters doing homestays with every family that wants help by mid-fall '96, and consistently

HUGGERS TO BUGGERS AND THEN SOME

through the three years to follow. Harassment happens less when outside eyes are present. If you've ever considered coming out here, now is the time.

I am planning to stay here indefinitely. I help cook, clean, herd sheep, watch kids, chop wood, haul water, do store runs. I am out of the city in a beautiful place with much quiet time. I am spending time with strong elders who are very generous and have wonderful stories to share.

Come out in pairs with a vehicle. We'll rendezvous at Big Mountain.

Peace,

—WENDY YOUNG
c/o SEAC-SW, POB 1891
Tucson, AZ 85702-1891

I happen to be one of the radicals in a very resource dependent rural community who is behaving much as Mitch Friedman suggested in his "Civil Disobedience as a Tactic, not a Culture." This lifestyle includes politically correct grooming and spending my time organizing moderates. How-

So there is hope. I am a lifelong resident of a small eastern Oregon "wise use" community. I often think about and look for common ground with the "users," and I find it increasingly obvious that intolerance is building toward the machinations of huge corporations which downsize or move out of the country, along with the robber barons who own obscene amounts of property. There seems to be a swelling movement to examine the role of these corporations in our lives and our government. This gives me some small hope. The Environmental Justice movement is doing front line work in belligerent opposition to their well-oiled agendas (disobedience if it ever existed) and intellectuals have begun stocking the bookstores and libraries with much food for thought. Several of us in this small town are already reading Robert Reich's *Opposing the System*. Is the revolution at hand?

We may live in the most resource-rich country on Earth, but it is obvious that all is not well. We are fearful and anxious as the hands of others pull our strings. We have less money for the good things in life like schools, good health care, art, music, etc. We have turned from being a free and confident people says Richard Grossman (a long-time leader in the anti-corporate movement), into just being consumers, (or maybe even commodities) always searching for a better fix. Being outright disobedient to their commands and whims might give us a renewed purpose in life.

And this is a fight to regain freedom and self confidence. Freedom to have time to relax a bit. Freedom to not have to look at everything on the dollar standard. Freedom to regain value for beauty, compassion, love, silence, respect, family and friendship. The pursuit of "as much money, sex, and fun as possible" is not working. It is time to reevaluate the corporate system (and our sanctioning of its charters) in our lives and communities. We must take back our "pursuit of happiness."

—STELLARS J.

Memo to Earth Firsters:

In American journalism, the Op-Ed page traditionally was reserved for the dissemination of diverse points of view. Unfortunately in my travels around the country I've found most local fish-wraps run Op-Ed pieces that merely parrot the editor's political bent. Despite constant whin-

ing by the Rush Limbaugh's of the world about a perceived "liberal media bias," that bent is usually of a right-wing, industrial apologist nature. For example, in eight years of reading my local rag, the *Orange County Register*, not once has a progressive opinion appeared on the Op-Ed page.

Instead, they typically run inaccurate right-wing drivel. Particularly insightful are libertarian commentaries dealing with environmental issues. These pieces usually start out by declaring a specific environmental problem to be non-existent—ignoring empirical facts and scientific evidence in the process. Then they whine that measures taken to alleviate this "non-existent problem" are breaking the backs of important businesses and costing us jobs. They always close by taking pot-shots at "extremist" environmentalists who "support more government intrusion into our lives" and who only want to "take away our freedoms." (Apparently these folks have never met a real, live environmentalist—after all, most of us are even more suspicious of government than they are.)

Of course, most of these opinion pieces are so much hogwash. However, the only way we'll ever further our view is by turning public opinion our way. We should deluge our local papers with complaints about their abdication of journalistic responsibility. Write a Letter to the Editor. Ask them to include all viewpoints in their Op-Ed pages. Then sit down and write an Op-Ed column about your favorite issue. Who knows, maybe the ink-stained wretches will see the errors of their ways. Maybe we can help transform our nation's Op-Ed pages into the public forums they were meant to be.

—SID DUTCHER

To the Editor:

I enjoy reading the articles and comments in the *Journal*. Really gets the juices and adrenalin flowing like sort of "pissed off." [sic] But aren't your writers just preaching to the choir? We were all convinced long ago that the earth was going to hell in a handbasket as the result of "economic progress," a corporate mind-set dictated by profit, growth and control and an expanding population that a medium sized galaxy couldn't support. Wouldn't we be more effective in changing the attitudes of the folks that are causing the problems by getting our ideas and concerns more into the public consciousness. Sitting in trees and chaining oneself to gates and machines has great P.R. and shock value but the effect and purpose doesn't seem to last very long. The general voting public has trouble seeing past

these confrontations as depicted in the news, to the real issue, that of saving the earth. Wouldn't our movement be enhanced by bombarding our local newspapers with guest editorials and letters to the editor with some of the same info. contained in the *Journal* and demanding all public schools include an environmental core curriculum in grades K through 12? I'm sure this is not

wood signs declaring "No Camping," "No Fires" have been erected. The author remembers the same message at Shipwreck Beach near Cabo San Lucas just before the dozers chased out the campers to build another monstrosity for mankind. Last year, when swamp reeds were being removed, an ecological group from La Paz stopped the project. My feeling is that the land rapers



Las Palmas Beach

an original idea. Anyway, I don't need any more convincing; it's them out there that do. Don't cancel my subscription.

—JOHN L. NOYES, MD

Ed. note: Rest assured, your subscription is intact.

—CB

Dear Shit for Brains,

I never knew you were on the 'net! Why!? Did anyone else notice that every boneheaded remark in the last *Journal* came from some redneck or techno-geek who is on line, and couldn't afford the 32 cent stamp. Fuck the internet! The *Journal* was just fine without it. Why should a radical environmental organization be supporting something as dehumanizing and potentially destructive as modern computer technology. Computers are empowering corporations more than we can imagine and are leading to advances in genetics, artificial intelligence, and robotics. Who needs 'em. Throw them in the trash heap with the automobiles!

—FRED LUDD

Earth First!

The most beautiful beach in Baja is about to be trashed! Located 5 kms. south of the southern town of Todos Santos off highway 19, Las Palmas Beach is a beautiful oasis of fan, coconut and date palms. This quarter mile long cove harbors nearly 100 species of birds in the brackish lagoon, palms and surrounding desert. Pelicans, gulls, cactus wrens, hummingbirds, egrets, herons, tangiers, orioles, woodpeckers, vultures, doves and frigate birds are here along with ring-tailed cats, rattlesnakes, foxes, skunks, turtles and lizards to name a few. This unique habitat is fed by fresh water springs that are slated to be bulldozed "to save the lagoon." The real reason is that the developer "Patricio" has plans for a restaurant/hotel and golf course.

Petitions have been handed to the landowner, Kali Rodriguez, who lives in Todos Santos, requesting that this precious land be preserved as a wildlife refuge/eco-tourist site. Presently, big ply-

will try again when the tourists return north this spring. Who will be there next time to stop them?

Go get those buns in the sun and don't forget to moon those Mexican ORV's when they ride by, because driving down the beach is against the law!

—LEE MILLER

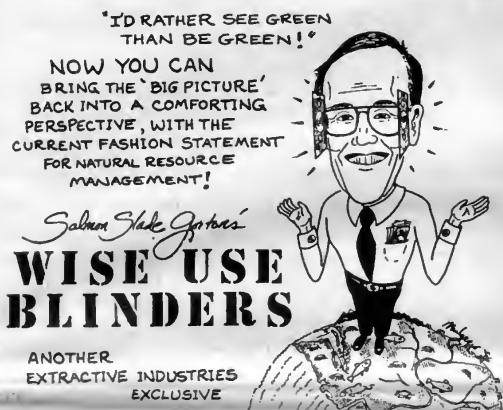
Dear cerebro de mierda,

I am writing in response to Thierry Sallantin and Al Decker's call for U.S. "eco-activists" to move to Amazonia to start their little "eco-paradise." Can you say neo-colonialism. Great, a bunch of gringos moving in with the "Amerindians." First, they are indigenous people; they expect to respect their ways and just blend in with them, but they still call them Indians. Second, as rich gringos, our responsibility is to stay where we are, try to heal the land where we are, and fight the corporate assholes that are taking this earth from us and especially indigenous peoples. I can just see it, a bunch of whiteys in their Patagonia shorts and \$2,000 canoes playing Indian in the jungle. Do they think that their intrusion will have no effect on the indigenous people? Sounds to me like the same colonialist bullshit and outright thievery that Euro-peons have perpetrated for the last 500 years. You want to make a change in how this planet is dying? Don't fly in a jet to French-Guyana, stay where you are in the ruined cities and garden, ride a bike, and FIGHT BACK!!! You can't escape from ecocide, so let's stop it now!

Love,

—FROG OF THE SALTY LAKE

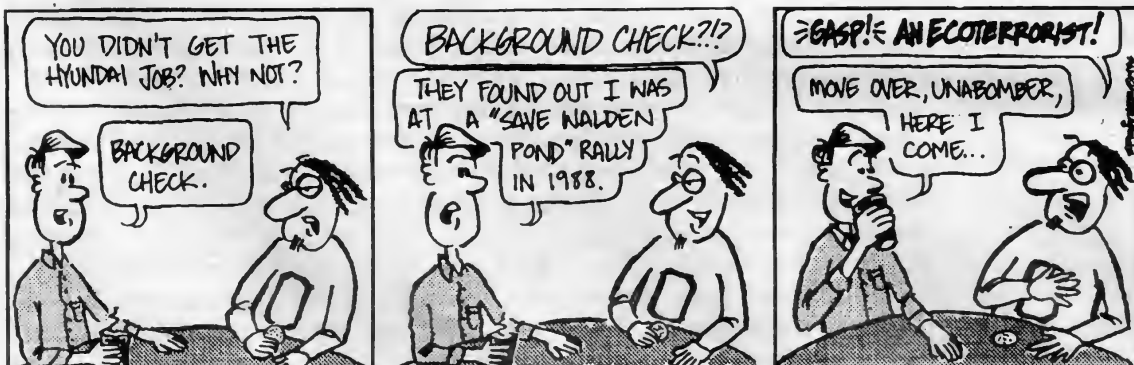
P.S. Yes, we can learn a lot from indigenous people, they are all around us in the U.S., the Western Shoshone have asked us time and time again to help them in their land struggles and against nuclear testing, Peltier is still in prison, and the Zapatistas of Southern Mexico have so much to teach and have said that their revolution will be won in the United States. We the lost children must listen for a change.



ever, Mitch's piece did not sit well with me.

It is undoubtedly a truism that each locale is different and each person is at different stages of the fight. Coming from an ecofeminist perspective, I cherish and fight for diversity above other values. But I feel the situation is so serious and the System we are supposed to work within so out of accord with our values, that disobedience as a lifestyle (civil or otherwise) is about the only worthwhile and interesting option at the moment. I joke with my "wise" use friends that we could share the same bumper stickers such as "Resist Much, Obey Little."

Cascadia Rising recently closed a road into an egregious salvage sale on the surrounding national forest. The press was outraged and sarcastic (especially the timber industry media), as expected. However, the negative article in the less-evil newspaper ended with Cascadia's message instead of the timber industry's, and the person in the street section that week asked the question, "Would you protest?" and everyone said, "Yes!"



"Wisconsin Forever, Exxon Never!"

continued from page 1

and possibly uranium. Once the ore has been extracted from the earth, it is to be refined on-site through a process designed to chemically break the copper and zinc from the sulfide in the rock; the sulfide ions mix with water in the environment, and form sulfuric acid waste. The proposed mine would thus produce 44 million tons of sulfuric acid waste laced with highly toxic heavy metals, and constitute the largest toxic waste dump in the state of Wisconsin.

Some 10,000 metallic sulfide mines exist across North America, and all have contaminated ground or surface water. Sulfuric acid waste from these mines eats through the liners meant to contain it, and wreaks havoc on the surrounding environment, killing aquatic plant life, fish and the predators that depend on them for survival.

Crandon Mining Company officials claim that they have developed a containment liner technology which will work, but who trusts them? CMC is run by Jerry Goodrich, an Exxon executive who oversaw operations at the El Cerrejon coal mine in the Wayuu Indian region of Columbia. Survival International has cited the El Cerrejon mine as grounds for listing Exxon among the top ten violators of indigenous rights. For CMC, credibility is a commodity in short supply.

Credibility is also an issue for the current state administration. Secretary of Administration James Klauser, Governor "Toxic" Tommy G. Thompson's top aide, is a former Exxon minerals lobbyist who possesses final authority in the mine permitting process. Any guess as to Mr. Klauser's mining views?

So now the prospect of a massive metallic sulfide mine at Mole Lake faces Wisconsinites, with an additional 12 to 18 such mines estimated to follow. These mines would constitute a mining district, each of them adding to the cumulative damage to our waters.

Creating a North Woods mining district would require additional development on a massive scale, including roads, sewers, social services, schools and new powerplants; the Exxon mine alone would eat up as much electricity as the city of Green Bay. (Progress!) Of course, Exxon PR hacks claim that all this "progress" means jobs. Never mind that eco-tourism in Wisconsin, particularly in the North Woods, is by far and away our largest employer and is relatively sustainable generation after generation. What Exxon officials propose is a boom and bust industrialization of the North Woods, providing a few jobs at a great cost to taxpayers in the short term, and polluting our waters in the long term.

Why We're Winning

With so much at stake Wisconsinites, who are normally a fairly easy-going people, have given Exxon corporation officials a very hard time. Since September, opposition to the proposed Exxon mine has swelled month by month, until by the time May 7 rolled around we had Exxon on the defensive. Here's some of how it happened:

On September 17, 1995, the Midwestern swing of the Caravan for Justice kicked off at the Environmental Resource Center at Mole Lake. The Caravan was a solidarity effort to bring together a broad and diverse network of justice activists. Among those present were locked-out workers from the Staley corporation of Decatur, Illinois; members of the black community in Milwaukee; students from the University of Wisconsin school system; anti-mining activists and members of the Sokaogon Chippewa community. From Mole Lake, the Midwestern Caravan for Justice stopped at six other communities on its way to the labor war zone of Decatur, Illinois.

The bonds and connections made on the Caravan for Justice proved later to be of great use, both in the anti-mining struggle and in the broader movement for justice. Anti-mining activists have joined together with welfare rights protests, union actions, and anti-racism rallies. Similarly, anti-mining actions have been done by organizers around the country, most recently in Houston, Texas, a town unlucky enough to host Exxon's world headquarters.

In late October of '95, Earth First!ers announced their presence in Wisconsin with a regional rendezvous on the shores of the Wolf River, and direct action at Exxon corporation's offices in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Following a rowdy march through the streets of town a day earlier, we took Exxon officials by surprise early the next morning. When Jerry Goodrich and Don Moe arrived for work they were greeted by a motley crew of EF!ers, TV newscasters and radio reporters. The story went statewide that day, and we kept the office shut down for most of the morning.

Hook & Bullet, Clipboard & Ballot

Maybe the Earth First! actions spurred the mainstream activists to action, or maybe they were afraid of what might happen if eco-radicals took front page and made a mess of things; then again, maybe Earth First! had nothing to with their actions at all. Regardless, the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council emerged over the winter with a truly impressive grassroots network of townspeople all

across Wisconsin's North Woods. Some 200 people were present at the formation of the WRPC chapter in Crandon, once thought to be a toss-up town on the mining front. Furthermore, early 1996 saw the formation of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, a sort of hook and bullet, clipboard and ballot alliance of conservationists, grassroots community groups and big environmental organizations. Mainstream organizing went so well that when the Conservation Congress, an advisory body to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), met on April 14, the 8,000 hunters and fishers present voted overwhelmingly for a moratorium on metallic sulfide mining in Wisconsin.

Spring Floods

By the time Earth Day '96 rolled around, anti-mining activity was flowing as wide and as fast as the Wisconsin. An Earth Day of Action, organized by Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Student Environmental Action Coalition and the University of Wisconsin Greens, drew some 900 people into the streets. In Madison, 500 strong marched, four lanes wide, on the UW-Madison School of

Engineering Building and occupied it; marchers demanded that the University sever all ties to Exxon, in particular a recent \$5 million grant. In Milwaukee, 100 people picketed the regional DNR building and questioned DNR Secretary Meyer directly about the proposed mine. In Stevens Point, 250 people marched through town, raising a ruckus and applauding a banner hang off the School of Natural Resources at UW-Point. And in Oshkosh, 75 people rallied on the local UW system campus.

Also on Earth Day '96, the Wolf and Wisconsin River Speaking Tours, organized by the Wolf River Education Project, kicked off in Madison and Green Bay. Over the course of the next 12 days, thousands of Wisconsinites in dozens of river communities heard first-hand testimonials from Crandon, Mole Lake, and Rhinelander community members. Here was a public relations campaign that Exxon officials couldn't counter, though they certainly tried.

The River Speaking Tours participants concluded their travels in Rhinelander on May 4, and that's where the real speaking out began. Some 600 Wisconsinites gathered at Hat Rapids on the Wisconsin River, a site Exxon officials have proposed for the discharge of wastewater from the mine some 38 miles away. Everyone in the anti-mining movement was there: Native Americans, conservationists, environmentalists, radicals, conservatives, students and community activists, all a part of the same Wisconsin clan.

From Hat Rapids the gathering crowd headed into town. By the time we marched past the Exxon corporate offices, we were a surging mass of a thousand. Some who were there say they saw CMC head Jerry Goodrich looking out the window at us, but I believe that if he was anywhere nearby he would have been down on his knees praying, and not standing in plain sight for all to see.

April Showers Bring May Flowers: Some Victories

Several days after Rhinelander, on May 7, the tide and momentum of the anti-mining movement came full force onto the floor of the Wisconsin Assembly. As hundreds of spectators watched, AB 758, the 20-year Mining Moratorium Bill, was revived from committee by a 95-4-1 vote. Two days later the Wisconsin Senate voted by a similar margin to do the same. What happened? Evidently legislators were more afraid of their constituents than of Exxon lobbyists, this being an election year and all. The Mining Moratorium Bill is scheduled to be among the first orders of business when the Wisconsin Legislature comes back into session.

A victory also came on the technical permitting front. A report commissioned by the DNR concluded that, "Crandon Mining Co. has been misleading the public; their claims that the proposal will cause no harm cannot be supported by the inadequate data presented so far." The report is one step along a long trail of review to which the Exxon mine proposal is subject. Released alongside the DNR report was an analysis conducted by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, which concluded that Exxon "has eliminated data inconsistent with its preconceptions..."

We're Winning, But It's Far From Over

To many anti-mining activists in Wisconsin, it feels like we're winning; and by any measure of success, we are. But Wisconsinites also know that as long as there is ore in our rock, and so long as corporations like Exxon exist, we will have to defend our land and waters. Since we want the ore to stay in the rock, the only way we're ultimately going to protect Wisconsin is to put Exxon and its ilk out of commission. That's something easy to say, but hard to do. So we'll need your help.

Is there an Exxon operation near you? Take direct action to stop Exxon. Have you considered coming to Wisconsin's North Woods on vacation? Maybe you should. Wisconsin's annual Protect the Earth Gathering will take place July 27-29 at Mole Lake [see announcement on page 34—ed.]. Contact Wisconsin's governor about the Exxon mine by writing to Gov. Thompson, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53701.

We need your help. Please contact us and find out what you can do. Write Midwest Headwaters EF!, 731 State St., Madison, WI 53703; (608) 255-8765.



Ben Manski exposes Exxon's mining plans at an Earth Day rally

Photo by John Peck

Concrete

THINK LIKE A MOUNTAIN

BY WRITER/ARTIST PAUL CHADWICK

COMIC BOOK REVIEW BY JIM FLYNN

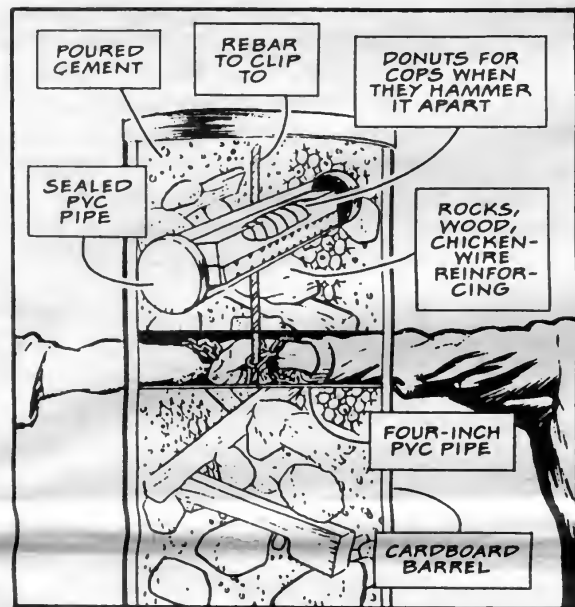
Earth First! has hit the mainstream! (Mainstream comics, that is.) Prepare to be transformed into a comic book junkie waiting at the door of the store every month for the most recent issue of your favorite character: Concrete.

Comic books are not a common topic among environmental activists—maybe because of some deep-rooted, “waste of paper” kind of attitude. However, some of the more anarcho types amongst us have plenty of zines and comics filled with quite an array of hard-line political topics. These hand-crafted, often photocopied publications are no waste; they cover serious topics of everyday life and too few of them see wide distribution. Rarely do the zines have an environmental theme, however, and maybe that is why they have not attracted the enviro crowd.

The comics from the big comic companies (e. g. *The Incredible Hulk*, *Batman*, *The X-Men*, *Wonder Woman*, *Judge Dredd*, etc.) rarely deal with serious social topics and even more rarely use real-life environmental themes. There are, of

course, exceptions to this; mainly single-issue, fund-raising comics with heroes and sheroes dealing with topics such as world hunger, AIDS or drug abuse. One major comic company, DC Comics, went so far as to have their character “Green Arrow” fight international ivory poachers and in another title the main character, “Animal Man,” did a stint with the Animal Liberation Front.

One independent book company, Dark Horse Comics, has made it to the big leagues. Probably the largest of the independent companies, Dark Horse has been in business for over ten years



and produces high quality comics—even a few with environmental themes. Their newer titles are even on partially recycled paper.

One of their titles, *Concrete*, has recently brought Earth First! into the mainstream comics arena. *Concrete* is a series that has been going for about ten years. It is the story of a guy named Ron Lithgow who was kidnapped by aliens, just like in tabloid headlines. The aliens transplanted his brain into a humanoid body made of organic rock and then left. The general public knows him as “Concrete,” the result of a (nonexistent) government cyborg project.

Concrete now makes a living as a writer and spends his time mountaineering and doing the odd jobs that his strength and rugged body bring him. As a famous mountaineer/writer living in California, Concrete writes frequently and sympathetically on environmental issues. Concrete is a self-described “moderate environmentalist who hates confrontation.”

In this special six-issue miniseries entitled “Think Like a Mountain,” one of Concrete’s friends introduces him to Penelope, an Earth First!er who invites him to write about an old-growth timber sale in northern Washington state. Because of his fame (and strength), her and some of her EF! buddies attempt to ply him with pizza and wine into writing about their struggle as a prominent writer “from the front lines.”



Concrete initially declines their invitation (and their pizza) citing reasons like his comfortable lifestyle and public reputation, but after they help him put out a “mysterious” fire which threatens his art collection and his roommate’s research, he agrees to accompany them and write under a pseudonym. At first, he insists that his participation is only as an observer, but after a few intense encounters in the wild and hanging out with the Earth First!ers (and much contemplation), he hoists a wrench high in the air and says the magic words, “No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!”

I’m not going to tell you the whole storyline because that would spoil it, but I will say that there is plenty of direct action, demonstrations, monkeywrenching and numerous artistic interpretations of past EF! protests and events. (However, do keep in mind that upon reading comics you enter a world that does not have the same reality as the one in which we live, so the writer/artist creates the settings and situations as need be.) By blending historic events into a fictional story, this miniseries is one of the best representations I’ve seen of our movement and would be a fine outreach tool for folks unfamiliar with Earth First!

Much of the series is set in the San Juan Islands of the Puget Sound. The pages are beautifully drawn and colored and even include proper ecosystems with species identification. Paul Chadwick, the creator, writer and artist for *Concrete*, has obviously researched not only ecosystems and ecology but Earth First! and environmental issues. An *EF! Journal* subscriber for over five years, Chadwick has gotten our rhetoric down, from the misanthropy to the sensationalism.

In addition to a finely crafted comic filled with radical eco-action, there is a letters section each issue that discusses topics such as tree spiking and the role of Earth First! in the environmental movement. Chadwick does an eloquent job defending Earth First! and radical tactics to his readers. He stresses the undeserved bad reputation we have been given by the mainstream press.

You can get a copy of *Concrete: Think Like a Mountain* at nearly any comic book store. By the time you read this, the first four issues of the six-issue miniseries will be released, so ask the comics dealer for the back issues. To order them by mail, write to Dark Horse Comics at 10956 SE Main St., Milwaukee, OR 97222.

There is one other comic book I would like to mention: *The Last Forest*. Written, drawn and produced by Dwayne Cannan and Totally Stumped Comics in Edmonton, Alberta, it is the story of human encroachment into the last wilderness. The wild animals of the world have been driven out of their homes and pushed further north “generation after generation, until they could go no further. Beyond lay barren rock and snow. They had come to the last forest... For a time they were safe, and it looked as though two-legs [humans] wouldn’t come here... until now!”

The Last Forest is beautifully presented with detailed drawings of the different animal characters who come together to find “the good two-legs that will stop the bad two-legs” that are logging their forest home. This is a full color, glossy comic and can be purchased directly from Totally Stumped Comics, Box 001, 6250-99 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6E 6C7. *The Last Forest* is only in its first issue and the price (including shipping) is (US) \$3.50.

Free the Animals

by Ingrid Newkirk

BOOK REVIEW BY JIM FLYNN

Free the Animals recounts the personal transformation of “Valerie,” a cop-turned-animal liberator. It is also a historical account of one of the most effective and hard-core activist groups in the world coming to the United States.

Something about the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) drives the FBI and the powers-that-be crazy. Maybe it’s their no-compromise approach. Maybe it’s their ninja-like movements. Maybe the feds just hate bunny

huggers. Whatever the reason, the ALF has been subjected to imprisonment, grand juries, interrogations, harassment and propaganda similar to the persecution of communists in the ‘50s.

Ingrid Newkirk, Vice President of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), wrote the book through a series of undercover interviews with Valerie. Names and other details have been changed to protect the liberators and their co-conspirators, but this ain’t fiction. The actions really happened and the downright

evil bastards who torture animals for fun and profit are named and shamed.

Beginning with the infamous Silver Springs monkey trials, Valerie gives first-hand accounts of numerous liberations pulled off here in the US in the 1980s and into the ‘90s. This book is so well written that when I first read it, I felt like I was in Valerie’s “cell” (affinity group) liberating animals. I shared the shock and horror they felt when they saw animals in their experimental (torture) cages. I got angry when vivisection won in court. I cried when some animals had to be left behind. I rejoiced when liberations were successful and vivisection were exposed in the media.

What I like best about this book is the information it provides for anyone who

needs to work undercover and organize behind the scenes. Written as a journalistic account of her life, Valerie also goes into detail about forming a “cell” of trusted friends, fixing up a van to haul cages, transporting animals, breaking into buildings, personal and vehicular security, running an activist training camp, handling the police, radios and communication.

In some ways more practical than *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching* (because these techniques were tried on real targets), this book is required reading for any activist. A word of caution, however: This book will change your life.

To order *Free the Animals* send \$13.95 to PETA at POB 42516, Washington, DC 20015.

SUMMER GATHERINGS &

Southwest Regional Rendezvous August 2-5

One of the most intact and biologically diverse groves of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer old growth in the Southwest is on the chopping block!

The La Manga timber sale is in the Carson National Forest in the Southern Rockies bioregion of New Mexico. The sale area is within Mexican spotted owl critical habitat and is home to northern goshawks and other old growth dependent critters. The Mexican spotted owl is listed as threatened and a goshawk nest site was found in the sale area subsequent to the final Environmental Impact Statement. Amidst the brouhaha stemming from an injunction put in place last August, "the Butcher of Millennium Grove" (Easter Sunday, Oregon, 1986), Leonard Lucero, now Supervisor of the Carson, stands poised to take a big chunk out of the last three percent of the old growth. The injunction will be lifted by the time summer rolls around and this area is a high priority for the Forest Service, local loggers and anti-enviro lynch mobs.

This summer take a trip to the beautiful, sunny Land of Enchantment, visit sacred sites, learn about indigenous plants and animals of the Southwest, and get arrested all in one vacation! A kitchen support network will be a part of our encampment, but as always, come self-sufficient. Plenty of beef available on the range for rabid carnivores. Hot green chiles, a must. We are also seeking workshop leaders on any subject. So y'all git yer ass down here and git ready for sum fun! Come one, come all. Bring your sunscreen, a hat, plenty of water and let the wild rumpus begin!

For more information or to donate supplies contact Forest Conservation Council/New Mexico Direct Action at POB 22488, Santa Fe, NM 87502; (505) 986-8435; e-mail: fccsw@igc.apc.org

PROTECT THE EARTH GATHERING MOLE LAKE, WI JULY 27-29

As the anti-mining struggle has grown, so has its momentum and tide. If you want to learn more about our mining struggle, here's an opportunity. Come to the Protect the Earth Gathering in Wisconsin at Mole Lake. Get away from the city and join us! Featuring music from Bobby Bullet and others at beautiful Mole Lake! Car caravans will be leaving from all over the Midwest on Friday, July 27. For more information contact (608) 251-7020 or (608) 255-8765.

COME HIKE IN A BEAUTIFUL EASTSIDE FOREST & HELP SAVE IT!

The Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project is sending you an urgent invitation to join them for a weekend campout and educational hike in the Aldrich roadless area. Located in eastern Oregon's Malheur National Forest, this amazing forest—which has never before been logged—is now scheduled to be cut under the Salvage Rider.

Here you could wander for days without seeing a stump among the diverse plant life, old-growth pine and fir in pine marten, redband trout and wolverine habitat. The goal of the hike is to educate visitors to put pressure on Congress and the Forest Service to cancel this "salvage" hoax sale. Media will be invited, and hikers will be briefed about the ecosystem, the threats it faces, and its overall significance in the area. We hope that after spending time there you can tell the

press why this area is significant as habitat and can explain why it is important to you to save it.

We will meet Friday afternoon, July 12, through Saturday morning, July 13, with the campout and hike ending Sunday afternoon. It's important that you are self-sufficient: Bring food, water, warm clothes, rain gear, hiking boots, sleeping bags, tent and a caring spirit.

Directions: From Highway 26 in eastern Oregon, between Dayville (to the west) and Mt. Vernon (to the east), head south on Field Creek Road/FS road 21. In approximately 10 miles, turn right on FS road 2150. Follow this several miles to the junction of FS road 540 and 39 (just below Aldrich Mt. lookout). This is where we will leave the cars (with a friend) and begin the hike.

Come to Alaska Summer!

Alaska, the "Last Frontier" is threatened by clearcutting, oil development, you name it.

Wanna be AK-tive? Hook up with Alaska activists! Many fun actions are being planned—some in conjunction with summer music festivals.

Anyone coming up this summer can contact Common Roots at (907) 566-2468 for help getting around, finding a place to crash, etc.

UNDER THE VOLCANO

Direct Action Training Camp & Radical Music Gathering July 12-15

UNDER THE VOLCANO and VALLEYWATCH invite you to British Columbia's Slocan Valley July 12-15 for some hair-raising music and activism. Twenty-five bands, artists, workshops and speakers will combine with a weekend-long training camp in non-violent direct action skills.

People in the valley have stalled logging in their community watersheds for almost 15 years, but mid-July may mark the end of resistance by bureaucratic fandangling. Traditionally Sinixt Nation territory, the area has a mixed economy (logging and service/tourist industry) and benefits from having a scientific ecosystem-based Forestry Plan which envisions community control over forestry resources. But BC's Ministry of Forests and Slocan Forest Products will have nothing to do with sustainable logging.

VALLEYWATCH stands for zero tolerance to logging in community watersheds and anticipates this fight rapidly

becoming a summer hot spot. Community activism is strong; however, few people are ready to engage in direct action. Activists from around North America are invited to help kick-start the campaign with a weekend of music and activism, with the option of staying on throughout the summer. Starring activists and artists (hiphop, hardcore, folk, blues, First Nations) including Faith Nolan, Casey Neill, Herb Hammond (Silva Forestry Foundation), Alice DiMichele, Robert Hoyt, Sha'Key, Sparkmarker, Puncture, Kinnie Starr, Kelly White, Zolty Cracker, Knock Down Ginger, and more.

The Slocan Valley is situated four hours north of Spokane, Washington and eight hours east of Vancouver, BC. Registration is \$25 and includes training, camping, meals and 25 hours of music. A day of action is slated for July 15. For more information contact (604) 355-2327; e-mail: grizzly@worldtel.com; website: www.eyebite.bc.ca/utv

Building Critical Mass—Green Gathering '96 August 15-19 • UCLA Campus

Green Gathering '96 is sponsored by the Green Party of California and hosted by the UCLA Campus Greens. It will consist of an educational/skills-building conference, the Congress of the Greens/Green Party USA and, most likely, the nomination of Ralph Nader as Green Party presidential candidate.

"Building Critical Mass" was chosen as a theme to reflect the fact that the United States is undergoing a rare period of political realignment, that there is a great receptivity among Americans for new politics, and that Greens and kindred movements have an opportunity to influence this change as it occurs.

The educational/skill-sharing aspect of Green Gathering '96 will take place from Thursday evening, August 15 through Sunday morning, August 18. The Congress of the Greens/Green Party USA will be held Sunday and Monday, August 18-19, spilling over to Tuesday if needed.

For more information on the Congress, contact the Clearinghouse of the Greens/Green Party USA at POB 100, Blodgett Mills, NY 13738; (607) 758-4211, e-mail: gpusa@igc.apc.org. If you have questions about Green Gathering '96, call (310) 473-3896 or 392-8450 or contact Green Gathering '96 at POB 5631, Santa Monica, CA 90409; fax (310) 314-7336; e-mail: mfeinstein@igc.apc.org

EARTH RESTORATION FAIRE '96 AUGUST 1-4

Calling all peaceable rads! The many EF! clans and Rainbow tribes, PEACEwagers of all stripes, spots and colors join us for this rock 'n roll soapbox dedicated to Earth restoration!

The Rainbow Valley stage is open to you as a soapbox; to hear from the heart, mind and body and the will of the Earth. All beings kindred to a living Earth are invited to this peaceful gathering. Speakers, musicians, comedians, poets, rappers, dancers, clowns, drummers, etc... all talents will be honored. A video will be produced. Bring stuff for the Barter Circle.

Folks committed to other actions are encouraged to send messengers with recruitment finesse or at least messages. Bring us up to date! Written contributions, etc. will be read aloud by folks and lowbaggers present. This is an outreach opportunity plus fun if you like rock 'n roll weekend campouts and lots of folks. We expect 12 or more bands to play, with an open micro-

phone in between and time for workshops and such.

NO ALCOHOL PLEASE

A donation of \$10/person is requested to aid Rainbow Valley Legal Defense—please help protect the right to gather for free expression!

Directions: Rainbow Valley is near Little Rock, WA, just south of Olympia. From I-5, take exit 95, go west to Littlerock, then turn left at Littlerock Road (by a mini-mart), and go 2 miles. Rainbow Valley is on the right, watch for buses.

All interested speakers, performers, etc., please contact us for scheduling and confirmation.

Contact Wounded Earth Environmental Project (WEEP) at POB 8574, Missoula, MT 59807; message phone (406) 549-6092. For more information on Hemp Education Day or Rainbow Valley, call Gideon at Rainbow Valley (360) 459-9107 or e-mail: rainbowvalley@olywa.net

OTHER COOL STUFF....

Born in Fire

The Native Forest Council and Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project recently completed an all new version of "Born in Fire—Warner Creek and the Politics of Salvage Logging." The video has been updated to include information about the Salvage Rider and the current situation at Warner Creek; the longest blockade of a Forest Service road in US history. The video uses the Warner Creek Fire Recovery Project as a case study to address the natural role of fire in the forest ecosystem, the problems with fire suppression, arson for profit and subsequent management activities. It exposes what is now happening to our public forests on a national level.

On the same tape there are three other short pieces making it a complete education package on the salvage scam that is visual, passionate and powerful. The tape includes "How Can I Believe," a inspirational music video by Peter Wilde produced by Cascadia Uncut; the very informative and funny "Western Forest Health" by Cold Mountain/Cold Rivers which features Dr. Arthur Partridge debunking the "salvage logging for forest health" myth; and "Last Chance for the Umpqua" (also by Cascadia Uncut) which shows the devastating affects of the Salvage Rider on the last of our healthy old-growth forests. The main feature, "Born in Fire," is approximately a half hour long. Total running time for all four films is under one hour. This video is a tremendously useful outreach tool for anyone concerned about forests.

We encourage individuals and groups to obtain a copy of this video and organize a showing (or a few) in their community. The reactions of audiences have been outstanding thus far. For a copy of the video please contact the Native Forest Council or Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project.

We encourage a \$10 donation to cover the cost of tape and shipping (please earmark checks for Born in Fire Video). If those who can donate larger amounts do so, copies can be provided to those who cannot afford to pay for the tape. We can also provide supporting literature if we have two weeks notice.

For a copy of the tape, write to the Native Forest Council at POB 2190, Eugene, OR 97402; (541) 688-2600; or the Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project at POB 3563, Eugene, OR 97403; (541) 726-4738.

HARDCORE (GEAR)

(made by and for activists to fit our rugged needs)

For the price of a commercial pack you can get a custom pack made to your specifications. Hardcore packs and bivy sacs are made by NW activists and feature a technically superior design made with recycled materials. We use NO DUPONT PRODUCTS. Compare this to other manufacturers which use prison labor, sweatshops, slave labor and Dupont fibers. Our material is much more durable than typical packs. Critical seams are sewn 4 times to insure strength and durability. (Commercial packs rarely have more than 1 row.)

Pick your colors; white as snow, black as night, green as a forest and brown as a tree seem to be very popular. Designs can accommodate any special needs e.g. large or bulky equipment, hmmm...

Cubic inch capacity & price:

3000" is \$200, 4500" is \$300, 6000" is \$350, Bivy Sac is \$110

Contact Joe Dibee at (206) 329-5313 from 9-11 am or 8-10 pm

10% OF PROFITS GO TOWARD DIRECT ACTION

Globalization and the Ecological Crisis Beyond the Nation-State

Goddard College, Plainfield, VT • July 12-14

We are entering a new era in which the global expansion of capitalism and its attendant "Free Market" ideology are creating a new set of challenges for those concerned with creating a just and ecological society. What is the nature of the global corporate agenda, and how is it being implemented? What is the role of international trade agreements like GATT and NAFTA in globalizing ecological problems? How are the development strategies of the World Bank and the IMF contributing to the ecological crisis? What are the implications of globalization for the nation-state? Are there alternatives to globalization? How has mainstream environmentalism responded? How can activists have an impact on the growing problems created by globalization?

These and other crucial questions will be addressed at this colloquium by a distinguished group of international scholars and activists.

We must move the discussion of globalization beyond the traditional liberal approach which looks to the nation-state to ameliorate problems through increased regulation, and find a real alternative based in grassroots action and the confederate principle suggested by social ecology.

If you would like to participate in this colloquium, please contact the Institute for Social Ecology at POB 89, Plainfield, VT 05667; (802) 454-8493; e-mail: ise@igc.apc.org

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Washington Wildlife Alliance (WWA) is looking for help in their campaign to end bear baiting and hound hunting of bear, cougar, bobcat and lynx. If you live in Washington state contact the WWA for information on signature gathering and getting the word out about ballot Initiative 655, which would end bear baiting and severely restrict hound hunting. If you are a student and looking for a summer internship, the WWA is looking for help in the campaign office. If you live out of state, donations can be sent to help the campaign.

Contact the WWA at 2319 N. 45th St. #203, Seattle, WA 98103; (206) 633-3435; e-mail: washwild@aol.com.

Environmental Patriots of America

The intent of the Environmental Patriots of America (EPA) is to support action in defense of America's environment—in particular, clean air and clean water.

The EPA's first effort will be to gain widespread national recognition of the EPA flag which is the American flag adorned with emerald green fringe. The green fringe is representative of a healthy environment, of grassroots activism, and of the broad spectrum of groups which have risen at every conflict to protect America's environment.

The EPA believes that spreading the image of this flag could help rally American environmental spirit and stimulate vigorous discussion of American values during this election year. If this symbolism is successfully received in America, it could also be accepted worldwide as a statement on behalf of the global environment.

The EPA is a non-partisan, non-profit entity. Its primary fund-raising mechanism is the sale of the green fringed flag on decals, t-shirts, coffee mugs, etc. We also sell a fringed flag and flag fringe. Write to the EPA for a catalog at POB 17303, Boulder, CO 80308-0303 or call (303) 444-9333.

LWOD #6 is here! And if it is good enough for the Unabomber, Barry Clausen, USA Today, the FBI, and ABC News, then it is good enough for you! Send \$3 to POB 15032, Berkeley, CA 94701.

Start A FOOD NOT BOMBS



Group in your community

You can begin feeding the hungry and working for peace by starting a Food Not Bombs group in your community. Food Not Bombs is a nonviolent all-volunteer network that provides free, hot vegetarian meals and political support to low income people in over 75 communities in North America and Europe. Food Not Bombs is empowering, rewarding and FUN! Send \$10 for our helpful 128 - page book that includes the steps for starting and maintaining a food recovery program, 30 vegan recipes for feeding 100 people and logos, flyers and letters you can reprint. An inspiring 110 minute video is also available for \$15.

FOOD NOT BOMBS

3145 Geary Blvd. #12
San Francisco, CA 94118
or call

1-800-884-1136
for free information

LIVE WITH FRIENDS AS NEIGHBORS

IN A RURAL CO-HOUSING COMMUNITY

- 100 acres near Moab with creek & springs
- Private and common land ownership
- Environmental & Social sustainability
- Consensus Decisions

~ seeking members ~ Box 1171 Moab Utah 84532

Urgent—
For the
Forests



The Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project needs a Tight Weight, durable Hi-8 video camera with a steady cam for documentation of "salvage" sales for litigation, media work and public education. If anyone can donate one or the funds to procure one, please Contact: Blue Mountains Biodiv. Project HCR-82 Fossil, OR 97830 Thanks!

SUMMERTIME WARES FOR

Proceeds from the sale of these goodies go to supporting the *Earth First! Journal*.
By purchasing music and books you also support the musicians and authors active in the fight to save the wild.

T-Shirts

Visualize Direct Action

Black and White on Unbleached—\$10.



(All t-shirts are 100% cotton and available in medium, large and extra large; for XX large add \$3)

Free the Earth

Multi-color on Turquoise—\$12

Earth First Tools

Black on Unbleached—\$10



No Fucking Compromise
White on Black—\$12

Earth First! Fist

Green on Unbleached—\$10

Black on Kelly Green or Red—\$12

Multi-color on Forest Green—\$13.50

Multi-color on Black—\$13.50

A Higher Law:

Unbroken Wilderness Forever

Multi-color on Unbleached—\$12



BUMPER STICKERS

You can put these on someone else's car too (hint, hint).

\$1 each, except as marked

- AMERICAN WILDERNESS:
LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT ALONE
- ANOTHER MORMON ON DRUGS
- COPULATE DON'T POPULATE
- DARWIN (words inside fish w/ legs)
- DEVELOPERS GO BUILD IN HELL
- DON'T LIKE ENVIRONMENTALISTS?
PUT THEM OUT OF WORK
- DREAM BACK THE BISON.
SING BACK THE SWAN
- EARTH FIRST!
- ESCHEW SURPLUSAGE
- FIGHT THE POWER!
- GET LIVESTOCK OFF OUR PUBLIC LANDS
(on cheap paper @ .50 ea.)
- HAYDUKE LIVES!
- HUNT COWS, NOT BEARS
- HUNTERS DID A COW GET YOUR ELK?
- I'D RATHER BE MONKEYWRENCHING
- I'LL TAKE MY BEEF POACHED, THANKS
- LOVE YOUR MOTHER.
DON'T BECOME A FATHER
- LOVE YOUR MOTHER. DON'T BECOME ONE
- NATIVE (w/ blue and green earth graphic)
- NATURE BATS LAST
- NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT
- PAY YOUR RENT, WORK FOR THE EARTH
- QUESTION TECHNOLOGY
- REAL MEN—DON'T SHOOT WOLVES
- REAL MEN—GET VASECTOMIES
- RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE
- SAVE THE DAMMED SALMON
- SAVE THE WILD
- STOP CLEARCUTTING
(on regular vinyl)
- STOP CLEARCUTTING
(on cheap paper @ .50 ea.)
- STOP PUBLIC LANDS RANCHING
(on cheap paper @ .50 ea.)
- STOP THE FOREST SERVICE,
SAVE OUR WILD COUNTRY
- SUBVERT THE DOMINANT PARADIGM
- THANK YOU FOR NOT BREEDING
- THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY
- VISUALIZE INDUSTRIAL COLLAPSE

Books

Earth First! Songbook

Lyrics the whole family will love!

77 songs/33 artists/guitar chords/info—\$10

ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching

By Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood

Extensively revised, expanded third edition.

Get 'em while we got 'em! Ned Ludd Books, 350 pages—\$18

The Monkey Wrench Gang

By Edward Abbey

Join Bonnie, Doc, Seldom and Hayduke on an epic monkeywrenching adventure. A must-read for any up and coming Earth First'er.

Fiction, 387 pages—\$6

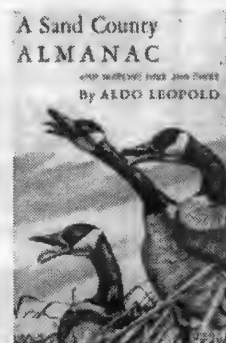
A Sand County Almanac

By Aldo Leopold

Absolutely the best book ever written.

Buy a copy for your mom or dad.

Special Commemorative Edition, 295 pages—\$9



Timber Wars and Other Writings

By Judi Bari

Judi's collection of essays describes life in defense of the forest and opposing logging of old-growth redwoods in northern California. 344 pages—\$12

Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching

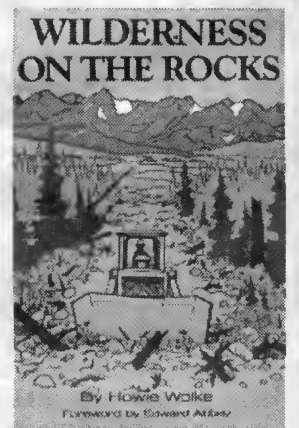
By Lynn Jacobs

This monster of a book tells you everything you ever wanted to know about cows in the West. Contact list, statistics, 500-item bibliography, index, over 1,000 illustrations (photos, cartoons, graphics, charts, maps) Large coffee table edition, 602 pages—\$28

Wilderness on the Rocks

By Howie Wolke

Wolke argues with logic and passion that our undeveloped public lands are wilderness on the rocks—scenic areas that lack ecological integrity and do not provide the necessary habitat for species survival. Tables, black and white photos, bibliography. Ned Ludd Books, 240 pages—\$15



YOU WANT SOME OF THIS?

Earth First! Fist Caps (cotton, adjustable) **\$10**
Tan • Brown Forest Camo • Green Forest Camo • Desert Camo

Earth First! Fist Patch \$2.50

Rubber Stamps (1 1/2" x 2" wood block) Earth First! Fist • Earth First! Tools **\$5**

Silent Agitators (1 1/8" round) **30/\$1.50**

Earth First! Fist • Earth First! Tools • No Deal, Assholes

Window Stickers (3" round) Earth First! Fist **4/\$1** • No Cows **6/\$1**

FREE TABLOIDS!!!

NEW! Earth First! Primer • *EF! Trinkets and Snake Oil* • *Kids for Konsevation*
War On The Bear • *Voluntary Human Extinction* • *Bitchin' Times*
Western Shoshone Defense Project • *Predators* • *Cascadia Rising!*

THE FASHION CONSCIOUS

MUSIC/TUNES/SOUNDS

AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS

Witty, intelligent, country-western parody, Lizard songs poke fun at everything worth poking fun at.
NEW! "Small Minds"
"Paint Me on Velvet"
"Lizard Vision" •LIVE•
"Creatures From the Black Saloon"
"Highway Cafe of the Damned"
Tapes—\$10 • CD—\$15

DARRYL CHERNEY

Earth First! organizer, songwriter and performer, Darryl is an Earth First! living legend (gag!).
"Timber" Tape—\$12
"They Sure Don't Make Hippies Like They Used To" Tape—\$12
"I Had to be Born This Century" Tape—\$12

ALICE DiMICELE

One of Oregon's most talented musicians. Alice celebrates love and life with her powerful voice.
"Naked" Tape—\$12 • CD—\$15
"Too Controversial" Tape—\$12 • CD—\$15
"Searching" Tape—\$12 • CD—\$15
"Make a Change" Tape—\$12
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EXIT-13

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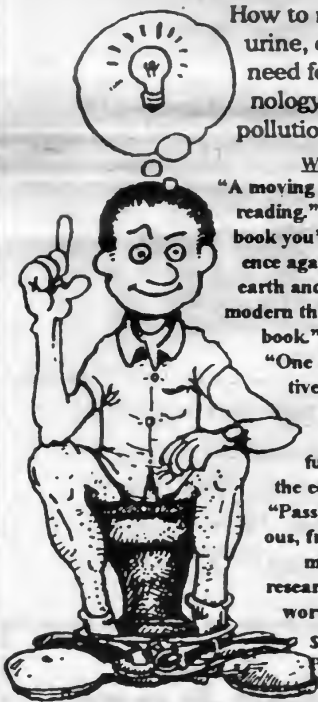
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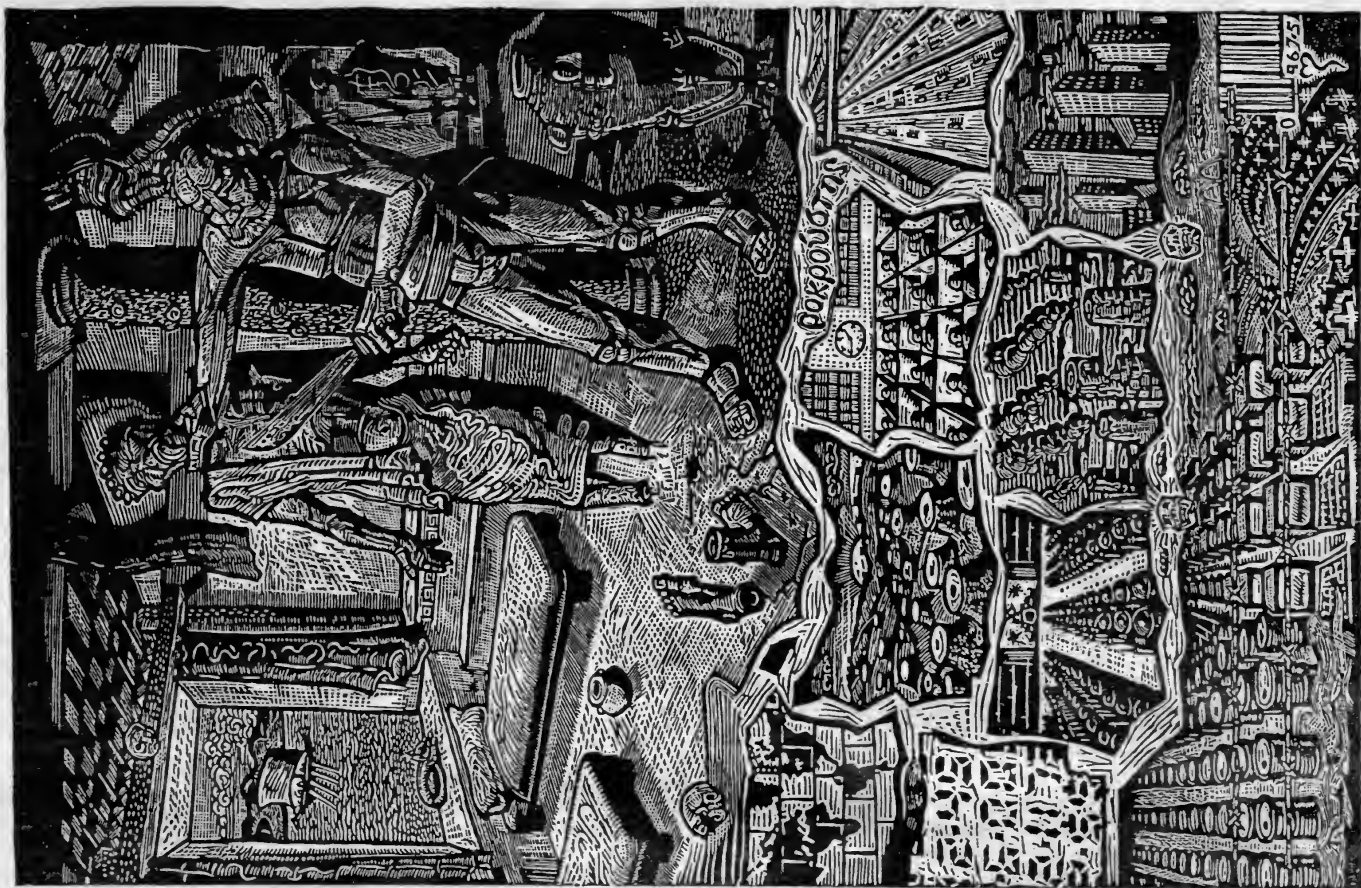
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